

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Letter to City Council Regarding City's Privacy Breach

From: Crawford, G.

Sent: October 1, 2020 8:47 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Eisenberger, Fred <Fred.Eisenberger@hamilton.ca>; MAUREEN WILSON <maureenowilson@gmail.com>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>

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October 1, 2020
Mayor and Council,

I would like this letter to be entered into the formal correspondence on the next Council agenda.

Many of you were very vocal in your condemnation of actions you say Cameron Kroetsch took that were worthy of an investigation by the City's Integrity Commissioner, Principles Integrity.

Mr. Mayor, you were one of the lead voices calling for a strong reprimand in order to not embolden others to speak out or to take actions deemed inappropriate by the City Clerk.

As you know, Mr. Kroetsch did not reveal the names of the individuals that became the focus of your concerns when he posted a tweet on his personal Twitter account that revealed only positions, not names. However, the City did reveal those names on their own website in the section that includes the HPS Board minutes. A fully unredacted motion, revealing both names and position titles, has been publicly accessible on the City's website since 2019.

When this was brought to the attention of the Integrity Commissioner by Mr. Kroetsch in writing a month ago, the IC chose to do nothing with this information. Principles Integrity told neither City staff, nor Council when they presented to Council yesterday on September 30. Then, you were likely unaware of the unredacted post. Now, you are aware.

After I, and others, brought this to the attention of the City and, in my case, Councillor Clark during the day yesterday, the City of Hamilton later removed their privacy breach motion and replaced it with a redacted version, with no comment.

That leaves me with a number of important questions.

1. Who told City staff of the problem?
2. Who made the decision to delete the unredacted motion and replace it with a redacted version?
3. What does Council intend to do about the significantly more egregious breach of privacy through publishing private information?
4. Will this lead to launching an investigation using the Office of the Integrity Commissioner?
5. Will Council vote to reprimand City staff to ensure they are no emboldened to make such egregious mistakes in the future?
6. Will the Mayor release a statement to the media apologizing for the breach, since a media statement was released reprimanding Mr. Kroetsch?
7. Will official apologies be sent the two people named by staff in the unredacted motion posted on the City's website?

May I ask that you provide me with a timely response to my questions? If I have additional questions, I will be sure to send them to you.

As you are well aware, this issue has been made much greater through your actions your comments, and ad recently as yesterday afternoon, the threatening tweets by Councillor Whitehead to the HCCI. Many in our community, and most particularly those in my own LGBTQ+ community, are feeling attacked by our leaders. If you are going to use a quasi-judicial process to reprimand a volunteer citizen, surely you will seek balanced justice in order to deal with a paid staff member who committed a much worse infraction than did Mr. Kroetsch.

Thank you for your attention.

Graham Crawford