

January 18, 2022

Mayor and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Re: Local Board Code of Conduct

At the General Issues Committee meeting of January 17, 2022 we undertook to provide commentary for Rule No. 5, Election Campaigns, in the proposed Code of Conduct for Local Boards.

The Rule and the proposed commentary are set out below:

Rule 5: Election Campaigns

No member, while identifying themselves as a member of a Local Board, shall undertake any election campaign or election-related activities or work on, fund-raise, endorse or otherwise contribute to the election campaign of any person running in the municipal election for the municipality where the member serves on the Local Board.

Commentary

This Code does not limit a person's right to participate fully in an electoral process so long as they do so without using their status as a Member of the local board for such purposes. For example, it would not be contrary to the Code for a person to:

- *Stand for Election;*
- *Contribute to an election campaign;*
- *In their own name, exhibit an intention to support one party or platform over another;*
- *While standing for election, indicate on their election material (without in any way suggesting endorsement) that they have served on a City of Hamilton local board amongst their other credentials and experiences.*

It was also brought to the Committee's attention that the fifth paragraph under 'Guiding Principles' in the proposed Code was redundant. Accordingly, it is recommended that the following entry be deleted:

Members shall perform their duties in office and arrange their private affairs in a manner that promotes public confidence and will bear close public scrutiny.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

Principles Integrity
Integrity Commissioner for
the City of Hamilton