

## 7.4 (a)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** for Council June 18 7.4 AFA 10.4

From: Gabriel Nicholson  
Sent: June 16, 2025 5:25 PM  
To: <mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca>  
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Hello,

The preamble to the Member Code of Conduct says "Members shall seek to serve the public interest by upholding both the letter and the spirit of the laws and policies established by the Federal Parliament, Ontario Legislature, and Council."

Except really that is hot garbage and should be deleted. What is the point of a standard if Council can't be held to it? The Code of Conduct is a citizen's last defense against member misconduct; and the Integrity Commissioner is on record saying a preamble is not actionable. Even though plain as day it says members shall strive to uphold the letter and spirit of laws.

Do we think when they wrote Municipal Act Special Services/Special Levy Section 326 lawmakers might have said

"So we'll let them tax residents for a particular thing at a higher rate than their neighbours, but then they can just forget about that thing and dole out the cash to friendly organizations as grants in perpetuity! Yes, that's the way a city should be run!"

Zero people at the time said that, but this council says it almost at every meeting.

It's maddening to hear citizens step forward and repeat what they've said multiple times about the disgusting infrastructure in this city. That injures and hurts them.

Area Rated Account balances sitting in the millions and there's no money to fix a James Street Sidewalk, yet today council will spend that Infrastructure Renewal cash on agencies not even in the ward, artist's fees, an artist to do a performance, sound equipment, murals and everyone's favorite: subsidizing baseball member's fees.

Money is going to an organization the City of Hamilton is responsible for. Why are only one ward's residents ponying up additional cash?

There's a Municipal Act violation clear as day in this slush fund payout. The Minister through Ontario Regulation 585/0 forbids certain services from being Special Levied.

Today, the smart bet is that will be ignored and all the Slush Fund cash will head out the door unopposed.

Is the sidewalk on James St still injuring people?

regards,  
Gabriel Nicholson