



Jennifer Wyness, Ward 2 Councillor

## **Councillor Carra's Investigation Report**

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On July 27, 2022, I brought forward a Notice of Motion that would direct Administration to refer Councillor Carra's recent ethics investigation report to be reviewed by the Calgary Police Service, and for the Mayor's Office to forward the report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. My motion was defeated in a vote of 7-7.

Council's decision today is a missed opportunity to build trust with Calgarians. My motion was about practicing good governance and regaining Calgarians' trust at a time when public confidence in elected officials is low. I am deeply disappointed by this outcome as the matter should have been referred to a neutral third party. Whenever there is an issue with pecuniary interest not properly documented over many years and multiple terms, it warrants additional review from third party oversight. Calgarians deserve a high level of accountability and transparency.

Many members of City Council campaigned on transparency and bringing integrity to Council. We were elected to be better than our predecessors. By referring the Integrity Commissioner's report on the Ward 9 Councillor's real estate transaction to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Calgary Police Service, we could have moved to safeguard public trust in our offices.

Furthermore, my Notice of Motion would have bridged an importance policy gap. Our Code of Conduct Bylaw does not specifically empower the Integrity Commissioner to refer, or recommend referral, of issues to third party entities on their own. The Integrity Commissioner's role is to investigate Council's Code of Conduct, and it is not up to Council to pass judgement when it is reported back to Council. We are to accept the recommendations as written. Referring this to the province and to CPS would have provided an extra layer of protection for Calgarians that is missing within the Bylaw. Council's role is to represent citizens and our duty is to build and maintain public trust – I feel that today's vote failed to meet those expectations. In the future, I will look to my colleagues for support in addressing this gap.

Jennifer Wyness

## Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Regulation (under the MGA)

### Sanctions for breaching code of conduct

**5** If a councillor has failed to adhere to the code of conduct, sanctions may be imposed including any of the following:

- (a) a letter of reprimand addressed to the councillor.
- (b) requesting the councillor to issue a letter of apology;
- (c) publication of a letter of reprimand or request for apology and the councillor's response;
- (d) a requirement to attend training;
- (e) suspension or removal of the appointment of a councillor as the chief elected official under section 150(2) of the Act;
- (f) suspension or removal of the appointment of a councillor as the deputy chief elected official or acting chief elected official under section 152 of the Act;
- (g) suspension or removal of the chief elected official's presiding duties under section 154 of the Act;
- (h) suspension or removal from some or all council committees and bodies to which council has the right to appoint members;
- (i) reduction or suspension of remuneration as defined in section 275.1 of the Act corresponding to a reduction in duties, excluding allowances for attendance at council meetings.