

Motion in Support of Bill 5 – *Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act*

Moved: Mayor Bonnie Crombie

Seconded: Councillor Matt Mahoney

WHEREAS Mississauga was one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to enact a Council Code of Conduct (“Code”), and has incorporated respectful workplace and workplace violence policies into its Code; and

And WHEREAS residents rightfully expect elected officials to be held to a high standard of conduct; and

And WHEREAS municipal councils do not currently have the power to remove members from office, regardless of their conduct, and members of municipal councils in Ontario are not subject to recall legislation; and

And WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001* only permits the Integrity Commissioner to recommend to Council a maximum sanction of 90 days suspension of pay for councillors who are found to be in violation of the Code, which is not sufficient to address egregious violations of the Code; and

And WHEREAS there is no place for workplace harassment, violence or bullying at the City of Mississauga and Council agrees there needs to be better measures in place to hold elected officials who are found to harass, bully or demean their colleagues accountable and to deter members from engaging in such behavior; and

And WHEREAS Mississauga Council believes that greater accountability measures are needed at the municipal level to hold mayors and councillors to account when their behaviour egregiously violates codes of conduct and the principles of a safe, harassment-free workplace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the City of Mississauga expresses its support for Bill 5 - *Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act* which:
 - a. would require the codes of conduct for municipal councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies; and
 - b. permit municipalities and local boards to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member’s seat if the Commissioner’s inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement;

2. Council requests that municipalities and their respective Integrity Commissioners be consulted on the development of any regulations related to the proposed legislation; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Stephen Blais, Orléans MPP; and the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP.

Bonnie Crombie