

Date: Friday, May 9th, 2025

To: Angie Melo, Legislative Co-ordinator for the City of Mississauga's Governance Committee

Re: Correspondence Submission for May 12, 2025 - Governance Committee meeting, Agenda Item 10.1

From: Athina Tagidou, Resident of Ward 3 in Mississauga

Good morning to all Members of the City of Mississauga's Governance Committee,

'Political influencers' – is this a new addition to the role of an elected City of Mississauga Councillor who is given the respectful and privileged position of representing the constituents of a city ward?

Following the presentation made at last month's April 9th GC meeting by resident Bev Knox and report in this meeting's Agenda Item 10.1 *Principles Integrity, Integrity Commissioner for the City of Mississauga* <https://pub-mississauga.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72058> – it appears that this is now an option for elected city Councillors. As both a resident and taxpayer in Mississauga this is very concerning.

In this letter to you I am respectfully requesting that the language to the Mississauga's Council Code of Conduct be edited to not permit such political influence endorsement to continue.

In the Feb. 2024 Councillor's Code of Conduct Rule 7, for Improper Use of Influence #1 clearly states, *"No member shall use the influence of his or her office for any purpose other than for the exercise of his/her official duties."* <https://www.mississauga.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Council-code-of-conduct-for-council-members-jan-2024.pdf>

Influence is defined as "the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself."

When an already elected official adds their name publicly to 'express their personal preference' to which they have the right to do in support of any political candidate, why would their title as Councillor need to be included?

Is it not for influence and to sway the public opinion towards a particular decision in favour of the candidate being endorsed? If this is not the case, then why is any need for the position to be noted next to the elected Councillor's name? However, we know that the weight of the position and word 'Councillor' adds great influence when noted in favour of any proposed political candidate even though and as we know - in a municipal election, candidates are nonpartisan while candidates in Provincial and Federal elections are party affiliated.

Let us knowingly not deny this truth.

An elected Councillor's responsibility is to ensure the voice, best interests of their respective constituents are adhered to, and best possible city programs and services are available in the ward they are elected to represent during their elected 4-year term of service. Municipal Councillors are not elected to publicly make known their personal support for any political candidate nor to use their position as a 'political influencer'. When they do openly and publicly, they are clearly stating their political party affiliations which is contrary to their role and purpose as Councillor. Using their name with their position/title in any capacity to politically influence residents in any way on how to vote is not what a Councillor is elected to do and is a clear violation to 'Rule #7 Improper Use of Influence' of the current Council Code of Conduct when it is done in any direct or indirect way.

I urge you to seriously and honestly consider the above request and work towards editing the Code of Conduct to include specific language that does not allow elected Councillors to being 'Political Influencers' moving forward.

Thank you.

Athina Tagidou

