Legislative Services
Michael de Rond
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Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

March 6, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario   **Delivered by email**
Premier's Office, Room 281   premier@ontario.ca
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of February 27, 2024
Member Motion 8.2.8 - Councillor Gilliland; Re: Legislative Amendments to
Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on
February 27, 2024, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

> **Whereas all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace; and**
>
> **Whereas municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse; and**
>
> **Whereas several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst municipal members of councils across Ontario; and**
>
> **Whereas these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments; and**
>
> **Whereas municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour; and**
>
> **Whereas municipal governments have limited abilities in their toolkit to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct; and**
>
> **Whereas the most severe penalty that can be imposed on a municipal member of council is the suspension of pay for 90 days, even when egregious acts are committed and substantiated; and**
>
> **Whereas AMO has called on the government to table and pass legislation that reflects the following recommendations:**

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- **Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment**

- **Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario**

- **Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province**

- **Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner**

- **Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office;**

1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora supports the call of action the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has submitted to the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them, in consultation with municipal governments; and**

2. **Be It Further Resolved That the legislation encompasses the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's letter of recommendations which includes options for enforcing compliance by council members with municipal Codes of Conduct such as**

   o **Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment**

   o **Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario**

   o **Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province**

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3. **Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill, and Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora, the Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all 444 Ontario municipalities.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,

Michael de Rond
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario municipalities

100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
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Town of Aurora
Council Meeting Extract
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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8.   Standing Committee Reports

8.2   General Committee Meeting Report of February 20, 2024

8.2.8   Member Motion - Councillor Gilliland; Re: Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Codes of Conduct and Enforcement

Moved by Councillor Gilliland
Seconded by Councillor Gallo

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Whereas the most severe penalty that can be imposed on a municipal member of council is the suspension of pay for 90 days, even when egregious acts are committed and substantiated; and

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Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (1): Councillor Kim

Carried (6 to 0)