

C1
Council Expenditure
and Code of Conduct
Review Task Force
June 10, 2016
Item 1

Council Expenditure and Code of Conduct Review Task Force

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Purpose

- Facilitate Taskforce deliberation on possible changes to the Council Member Expense Policy to ensure clarity and consistency with the Code of Ethical Conduct for Members of Council
 - April 13, 2016: Advertising and other direct-to-public communication Expense – **completed**
 - May 10, 2016 **cancelled**
 - June 10, 2016: Community Events and Sponsorship Expenses and General Office Expenses
 - TBD: Travel and Education Expenses
 - TBD: Code of Conduct

Today's Agenda

- Section 9.13 Community Expense (Hosting Events by Council Members)
- Questions to be discussed:
 - Is the \$1500 maximum per event still reasonable?
 - Is the maximum gross or net of sponsorships and in-kind contributions?
 - What kinds of events should be allowed/disallowed?
 - What approvals from Council should be required?
 - What disclosures or reporting should be required?

Maximum Expenditure

- Currently set at \$1500 for event; does not specify whether gross or net
- Options:
 - Increase or eliminate the maximum, subject to budget availability
 - Specify that the limit is net of in-kind sponsorships
- Allowable expenses include advertising the event and all costs of producing the event.

Events

- Current section does not list allowable types of events but does distinguish two types of ineligible events
 - Events hosted by third-parties without a Councillor's participation
 - Events occurring after June 30th of an election year.
- Should there be additional restrictions on the type of event?
- Is the June 30th cutoff reasonable?

Approvals

- Current section requires pre-approval from Council if accepting donations or sponsorship to avoid being offside of the Code of Conduct
- The Code of Conduct allows an exception to the prohibition on receiving gifts and benefits for:
 - “Sponsorships and donations for community events or initiatives organized or run by a member or third party on behalf of a Member *where Council has authorized or endorsed the event or initiative*”

Disclosures and Reporting

- Hosting expenses are currently subject to the same disclosure requirements as all other Council expenses
- Should special disclosure requirements exist for events?
- Should special disclosure requirements exist for sponsorships received?

General Office Expenditures

- Books, Magazines, Newspapers (Subscriptions)
- Appreciation expenses for staff
- Business meetings (staff, external parties, Council)
- Cable TV
- Memberships
- Office Décor/maintenance
- Office Furniture
- Office equipment (non computer related)
- Office Supplies/Printing services/Toner
- Technology (computer/laptop/printer/mobile devices)
- Home Office (Internet services, home phone) for business use
- Training/Conferences/Seminars
- Mileage/Car allowance
- Other Transportation including bus, taxi and rental
- ETR407

Task Force Recommendations?