



January 10, 2022

Via email: integrity.commissioner@edmonton.ca

Office of the City Clerk
3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB
T5J 0R2

Attn: Integrity Commissioner

Dear Commissioner:

Re: Councillor Michael Janz / Council Code of Conduct complaint

I am writing regarding a series of social media posts made by Councillor Michael Janz in December 2021. It is very unfortunate that I have to make this complaint, but the content of the recent social media posts and the role Councillor Janz now holds as an elected official for the City of Edmonton has made it necessary to file this complaint under the Council Code of Conduct, Bylaw 18483. Prior to this complaint, I did send correspondence to him requesting a meeting but unfortunately I received no response from him or his office.

A. Provisions of the Council Code of Conduct relied on:

Schedule A Council Code of Conduct

Part A: Representing the Municipality

1. While carrying out their duties, Councillors must:

- a) act in the best interests of the City as a whole;



b) consider all decisions and issues thoughtfully, consistently, impartially, and fairly by considering all relevant facts, opinions, and perspectives;

...

e) communicate respectfully with members of the public, Councillors, City employees, and Councillor's employees.

Part B: Communications

1. Without limiting the ability of a Councillor to hold a position on an issue and respectfully express their opinions, Councillors will:

a) ensure their communications accurately reflect the facts of Council's decisions;

...

c) ensure that all communications are accurate and not issue any communication that the Councillor knows, or ought to have known, to be false;

d) ensure that all communications issued by, or on behalf of, the Councillor, including social media, are respectful and do not discriminate, harass, or demonstrate disrespect toward any person; and

e) not issue any communications that mislead Council or the public about any matter.

Part C: Decision-making Processes

1. Councillors will exercise their authority to make decisions in a manner that demonstrates fairness, respect for differences, and an intention to work together for the common good and in the public interest.

Part E: Respectful Interactions

1. Councillors will conduct themselves with decorum at all times, including while attending meetings, interacting with City employees and Councillor's employees, and engaging with the public.

...



3. Councillors must not use any harassing, offensive, discriminatory, disrespectful, or unparliamentary language about Council, a Councillor, City employees, Councillor's employees, or the public.

B. Facts surrounding the allegations:

In December 2021, I learned that Councillor Janz had made, retweeted, and/or “liked” a series of social media posts about the Edmonton Police Service and its members, as well as police officers generally. The social media posts contained statements, language, and commentary that is completely inappropriate for a City of Edmonton Councillor.

Many of the posts show a serious lack of understanding of issues around and involving the Edmonton Police Service and its members. Further, the posts are not impartial and do not fairly by consider all relevant facts, opinions, and perspectives as required by the Code, the posts are often offensive and very disrespectful of and to City employees (Edmonton Police Service members), and some of the posts are misleading in respect of the Edmonton Police Service and its members.

Councillor Janz is not a private citizen who is simply sharing his views on social media. He is now an elected official of the City of Edmonton and he is required to follow the Council Code of Conduct with an appropriate level of decorum, respect, and professionalism.

The Code of Conduct requires that Councillor Janz is accurate in his comments, that he obtains all the relevant facts before commenting, that he conducts himself in a fair, unbiased and respectful manner both generally as a Councillor but also specifically in respect of his communications about City employees including members of the Edmonton Police Service, and he that he conducts himself in a way that is respectful of and that benefits the people of Edmonton as a whole including the thousands of Edmonton Police Service employees and their families who live and work in the City of Edmonton.

Unfortunately, Councillor Janz has repeatedly violated his obligations under the Council Code of Conduct through his recent social media posts by:

- a) Implying that that the Edmonton Police Commission was and is negligent in its duties, and that there is no oversight over the Edmonton Police Service budget and expenditures;
- b) Retweeting a post that called the Chief of Police a “bureaucrat”, accused the Chief of “fearmongering”, and called the Chief’s comments about potential budget cuts “predictable” and “disgusting”;



- c) Attacking the media for its coverage of a debate and a Council decision regarding the upcoming Edmonton Police Service budget;
- d) Publicly “liking” social media posts from known critics of the Edmonton Police Service who are known for misrepresenting facts about the Edmonton Police Service and its members;
- e) Retweeting social media posts from other municipalities (Lethbridge and Calgary) that accuse police officers of “malevolence” and “political bias”, and imply that police officers in general are not held accountable for their actions;
- f) Posting his own tweets that falsely state or imply that police officers in Edmonton are not held accountable for their actions;
- g) Accusing members of the Edmonton Police Service of “egregious police brutality” based on unproven and disputed allegations in a civil lawsuit; and
- h) Implying that members of the Edmonton Police Service may somehow be associated with the “Proud Boys” because of an event in the City of Calgary in 2020.

The specific social media posts are attached to this complaint.

C. The name of the Councillor alleged to have contravened the Council Code of Conduct:

Councillor Michael Janz, papastew Ward

D. The Complainant’s name and contact information:

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