

Council Memo



Date November 26, 2024
To City Council
From Mayor Cam Guthrie
Subject Code of Conduct Amendment in Relation to Integrity Commissioner Report to Council re Code of Conduct: Gifts and Benefits

In relation to the Integrity Commissioner report, in which I self-reported, I respectfully submit a resolution to council for consideration to remedy the Code of Conduct. These changes, if approved, will become applicable to all members of Council.

The resolution has been crafted with input from the Integrity Commissioner and the City of Guelph Clerks Department.

In specific reference to the Global Covenant of Mayors, in 2018 Guelph City Council unanimously approved Guelph becoming a signatory to this globally recognized organization.

In 2022, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, of which Guelph is a member, contacted me directly to ask if they could submit my name, through them as a secretariat, to be considered as a position for the North American representative on the GCOM board of directors. (Please see the attached letter from FCM CEO Carole Sabb). I was unanimously approved to join.

Since that time, I have represented the GCOM values and goals while also representing the City of Guelph as mayor. I have attended several events to speak to the work our City is doing and advocate for the inclusion of cities within higher orders of government policies. My presence alongside GCOM has already secured \$50,000 USD towards the creation of a new Youth Climate Action Fund (which has been launched and successfully supported by young people across Guelph). I am now currently working to finalize a further \$100,000 USD for a second round of grants for our youth.

These connections have also led to successful training provided for City of Guelph staff through partnerships with ICLEI, C40 cities, and GCOM, enabling the opportunity to strengthen the impacts of our own Climate Change and Energy office.

From a government relations perspective, I have continued to promote Guelph innovations, sustainable infrastructure projects, and energy initiatives to upper levels of government. I continue to advocate for greater municipal resources/support for environmental projects and champion applications for funding in climate change initiatives.

The motion before us is to ensure that this matter can be resolved quickly so that this important work on behalf of the City of Guelph and our partnerships with FCM, ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection network, and GCOM can continue to proceed. It is also consistent with the Council and Mayor Expense Policy regarding education programs and attendance at events.

That Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Council and Local Boards be amended to include an exception for 'food, lodging, transportation and entertainment provided by third-party organizations for attendance at events which are targeted to a municipal government audience' and, when the total benefit exceeds \$300, require reporting in the City Council and Local Boards Gift Disclosure within 30 days.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mayor Cam Guthrie