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Subject:

Date: October 13, 2023 at 3:10 PM

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LH

Hi Mayor Black and Deputy Mayor Martin,

Thank you for your letters dated Oct 6, 2023 regarding the official complaint I made against Mayor Black on Aug 7, 2023. I appreciate you and the rest of our town councillors taking the time to consider the merits of my complaint.

That being said, I find it hard to understand why Council determined that there was no violation of the Code of Conduct and I am hoping that a more detailed explanation of what factors led to this determination can be provided. I would also appreciate hearing why my questions were not addressed regarding why, if the election of deputy mayor is mandated at the first meeting of council as per Procedural By-Law #2022-03, section XIX, the election was excluded from the official meeting agenda, and who made the decision to exclude the election from said agenda. For the sake of transparency, I think these are important questions that should be addressed by Council.

There is a video record of what transpired at the meeting in question that all members of the public can access. In that video record, Councillor Wiggins-Colwell made a motion to add the election of deputy mayor to the agenda because of the requirement spelled out in the above mentioned By-Law. Because this election was required by the By-Law, all other councillors voted in favour of the motion. Mayor Black, after Councillor Wiggins-Colwell correctly noted that the election of the Deputy Mayor was required by the By-Law, voted against the motion. Thus, because the motion to amend the agenda required unanimous consent, the election was not held at this meeting - in other words, the Mayor knowingly violated the By-Law (plus the Code of Conduct By-Law #2022-02, Section 3.d.: "...all Councillors shall respect, and adhere to, the established policies, procedures, and By-Laws of Tantramar"). The facts are very clear and I do not see how Mayor Black's violation of these By-Laws can be denied by Council.

This might seem like a trivial matter and it might appear that I am personally persecuting Mayor Black but I assure you this is not the case. I voted for Mayor Black because of the commitment he made to transparent and accountable governance and I expect him to adhere to this promise. There also needs to be consistency in the way that By-Laws are followed. Mayor Black violated By-Law #2022-03 and By-Law #2022-02, yet at Committee of the Whole meetings he diligently requires public presentations to be kept strictly to the maximum 5 minutes as prescribed by Procedural By-law #2022-03. If members of the public are expected to strictly adhere to municipal by-laws, then our elected officials should be expected to do the same.

With respect,

Les Hicks