Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:46:02 AM

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Delegation Information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - other:
Agenda Item: Governance committee item #1

Service Inquiry: Register as a Delegation, Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: Via Zoom
Comments in writing: It has been said that as soon as a person is elected, their primary job is to prepare for re-election. Some take this very seriously. Virtue signaling and related photo ops are part of this strategy. Some simply try to do a good job, hoping that this will lead to re-election. Those folks have no need for photo ops and cringe-worthy virtue signaling. Winnipeggers should be proud that such self promotion is so rare at the civic level, when compared with some government Ministers.
A person's Election prospects can be reduced when embarrassing news items are raised by the competition or by the media. This has been a peril for as long as democracy has existed.
It is natural for any elected person to want to reduce the effect of bad news on their next campaign. Some folks see the "integrity" changes proposed today as supporting that anti-democratic goal.
We all saw how effective the federal gov was when it began openly bribing Canadian news companies in its first term. It was made clear to those sharing the $600million that this money depended on each company being "trusted" by the government. In the months leading up to the next election, the gov was not bothered with negative news coverage. In the months before the 2021 Federal General Election, the federal gov introduced a new program, to provide new, special one-time funding to just about every small media outlet in Canada. No one knows what strings were attached to this new money. Some suspect that this new money came with an obligation to suppress any negative comment on the Party in power, as the $600m/year clearly did.
It was Winnipeg's City Council that initially approved the processes involving the Integrity Commissioner. It is obviously within Council's power to restrict and even cancel those processes. On the other hand, some suggest that you do not have the moral authority to reduce the effectiveness of your Integrity process, without significant public consultation, and a healthy debate on the merits and harms which may result. There is some age-old advice which says that just because you CAN do something, doesn't mean you should.
The ethical problem arises when one considers that any scandal that is discovered in the year or so before a civic election, may never be known to the public after these changes are made. If the situation is actually investigated, and eventually published, it would be long after the election. In any democracy, it is essential that voters be fully informed on the issues and the people. Even for an individual

Councilor, who has no skeletons in their closet, it is wrong to lay out a plan like this, whose sole purpose is to hide facts from voters.
It has been said that in Canada we have a set of multi-level dictatorships, where democracy reigns but one day every 4 years. If these changes take effect, that one day will be tainted. In effect we will go back to the days before there was an internal city process for investigation of ethical matters.
I suggest changing in a direction that benefits transparency and honesty.
Please eliminate the info black-out period, don't make it longer.
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