



Report to Council From the Office of Councillor Zoë Royer

Date: May 6, 2021
Subject: Governing in Virtual Settings

Purpose

We need to create a new set of rules to ensure virtual meetings are held, run, and streamed in a way that leaves every member feeling safe and respected.

We are each responsible for our own behaviour, but it's also important for us to strengthen our procedures such that there are fewer opportunities for things to fail in the future. Our residents are counting on us for this.

With our current reality of virtual meetings, situations arose that we had never experienced previously when meetings were in person. Given the new capabilities of these virtual platforms, we must take extra care to ensure the appropriate mechanisms are in place to support fairness and transparency in meetings as a guarantee, rather than by happenstance.

For these reasons, I propose the following motion:

Recommendation

WHEREAS equal and unbiased treatment of all members of Council during deliberations and discussions of Council is essential for democracy to function;

AND WHEREAS each member of Council was elected to represent our community as an independent voice at the governing table and should be afforded the same meaningful opportunity to participate in Council meetings as any other member;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Council members control their own microphones in all virtual meetings of Council as recommended in the report dated May 6, 2021 from the Office of Councillor Zoë Royer regarding Governing in Virtual Settings;

AND THAT in order to be granted access to a virtual meeting of Council, only a single instance of each participant can be logged into a virtual meeting of Council at any one time, with the exception of the theatre technician.
