



## Report to Council

### From the Office of Councillor Zoë Royer

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Date: May 6, 2021  
Subject: Use of City Solicitor Oversight

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#### Purpose

Legal advice is costly and can be abused if the sole direction given to the City Solicitor is from one person; imagine the possible confusion that could arise between one member of Council's official City business and his personal legal affairs.

The consideration of legal advice is always related to the most important decisions Council is required to make. Legal advice is related to the acquisition and disposal of City property, delicate human resources issues and legal claims by the City or against the City, to name a few examples. We need a clear procedure before seeking legal advice.

To safeguard taxpayer's dollars and public trust, we must always ensure that legal advice sought from the City Solicitor is in the City's interest and direction to do so comes by way of resolution from the body of Council.

Clear Council direction, prior to seeking legal advice, is essential. I therefore propose the following motion:

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#### Recommendation

**THAT a request for the City Solicitor to provide a legal opinion can only be acted upon if the proposed language of the request is worded with a clear scope of investigation, and if the clearly worded request is approved by a majority vote of Council as recommended in the report dated May 6, 2021 from the Office of Councillor Zoë Royer regarding Use of City Solicitor Oversight.**

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