

## BYLAW NO. 9424

### The Code of Ethics for Members of City Council Bylaw, 2017

The Council of The City of Saskatoon enacts:

#### Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited as *The Code of Ethics for Members of City Council Bylaw, 2017*.

#### Purpose

2. This Bylaw is enacted to outline the basic ethical standards and values for members of City Council. The Bylaw sets out the standards and values of honesty, objectivity, respect, transparency and accountability, confidentiality, leadership and the public interest and responsibility which each member of City Council is to uphold.

#### Code of Ethics Adopted

3. The Code of Ethics for Members of City Council shall be as set out in Schedule "A".

#### Coming into Force

4. This Bylaw shall come into force on the day of its final passing.

Read a first time this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

Read a second time this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

Read a third time and passed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
"Charlie Clark"

Mayor

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"Joanne Sproule" "SEAL"

City Clerk

## **Schedule “A” to Bylaw No. 9424**

### **Code of Ethics for Members of City Council**

#### **Preamble**

As members of City Council, we recognize that our actions have an impact on the lives of all residents and property owners in the City of Saskatoon. Fulfilling our obligations and discharging our duties responsibly requires a commitment to the highest ethical standards.

The quality of the public administration and governance of the City of Saskatoon, as well as its reputation and integrity, depends on our conduct as elected officials.

#### **Purpose and Interpretation**

The purpose of this Code is to outline basic ethical standards and values for members of City Council. It is to be used to guide members of City Council respecting what their obligations are when fulfilling their duties and responsibilities as elected officials.

This Code is to be interpreted in accordance with the legislation applicable to the City of Saskatoon, the common law and the policies and bylaws of the City of Saskatoon.

Neither the law nor this Code is to be interpreted as exhaustive, and there will be occasions on which City Council will find it necessary to adopt additional rules of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance the public confidence and trust in local government.

It is the responsibility of each member of Council to uphold the standards and values set out in this Code.

#### **Standards and Values**

##### **A. *Honesty***

Members of Council shall be truthful and open in their roles as Council members and as members of the City of Saskatoon, the community they serve.

##### **B. *Objectivity***

Members of Council shall make decisions carefully, fairly and impartially.

**C. *Respect***

Members of Council shall treat every person, including other members of Council, City of Saskatoon employees and the public, with dignity, understanding and respect.

Members of Council shall not engage in discrimination, bullying or harassment in their roles as members of Council. They shall not use derogatory language towards others, shall respect the rights of other people and groups, shall treat people with courtesy and shall recognize the importance of the different roles others play in local government decision making.

**D. *Transparency and Accountability***

Members of Council shall endeavor to conduct and convey Council business and all their duties in an open and transparent manner, other than those discussions that are authorized to be dealt with in a confidential manner in a closed session, so that stakeholders can view the process and rationale used to reach decisions and the reasons for taking certain actions.

Members of Council are responsible for the decisions that they make. This responsibility includes acts of commission and acts of omission.

**E. *Confidentiality***

Members of Council shall refrain from disclosing or releasing any confidential information acquired by virtue of their office except when required by law or authorized by City Council to do so. Members shall not take advantage of or obtain private benefit from information that is obtained in the course of or as a result of their official duties or position and that is not in the public domain. This includes complying with *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in their capacity as members of Council for the City of Saskatoon.

**F. *Leadership and the Public Interest***

Members of Council shall serve their constituents in a conscientious and diligent manner and act in the best interests of the City of Saskatoon. A member shall strive, by focussing on issues important to the City of Saskatoon and demonstrating leadership, to build and inspire the public's trust and confidence in local government.

Members of Council are expected to perform their duties in a manner that will bear close public scrutiny and shall not provide the potential or opportunity for personal benefit, wrongdoing or unethical conduct.

**G. Responsibility**

Members of Council shall act responsibly and in accordance with the Acts of the Parliament of Canada and the Legislature of Saskatchewan, including *The Cities Act*.

This duty includes disclosing actual or potential conflicts of interest, either financial or otherwise relating to their responsibilities as members of Council, following policies and procedures of the City of Saskatoon, and exercising all conferred powers strictly for the purpose for which the powers have been conferred. Every member of Council is individually responsible for preventing potential and actual conflicts of interest.