

Subject: Examination of ethical implications regarding Council members voting on issues with Personal Financial Interests.

Member of Council: Kash Heed

Meeting: General Purposes Committee (Public)

Notice Provided on: May 28, 2025

For Consideration on: June 2, 2025 in accordance with Procedure By-law No 7560

Background

An important ethical consideration has emerged regarding the participation of Council members in votes where personal financial interests may be involved. This concern has gained heightened significance following recent discussions about the appointment of a new director for Metro Vancouver.

It is imperative for Council members to recognize and declare any potential conflicts of interest transparently. Understanding the delicate balance between collective benefits to Council and individual interests—particularly in scenarios such as voting on remuneration changes—adds complexity to this issue.

From an ethical standpoint, there are strong positions that a Council member who holds a personal financial interest in a matter should refrain from both contributing to discussions and participating in the vote.

To ensure the integrity of Council's decision-making processes, Council should seek to determine if there exists any legal precedent concerning this situation. Furthermore, Council should explore the possibility of engaging an ethics or conflict commissioner for a thorough review of this matter.

Motion

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) investigate the legal precedents surrounding the matter of Council members voting on issues with Personal Financial Interests;
2. That the CAO consider seeking a review from an ethics or conflict commissioner to gain further guidance on appropriate actions for Council members in similar situations; and,
3. That the CAO report back to Council within three months.