

Mayor's Statement to the Media – October 3, 2011

I thank the Commissioner for the work he has done. The Commissioner's recommendations will make an important contribution to clarifying standards that should apply to municipal officials not only in Mississauga but across the province.

The Commission has found that I was in a conflict of interest with respect to WCD. Let me be clear. I have acknowledged from the outset that I was in a conflict of interest with regard to WCD. I declared this to Council as I was required to do.

I did not attempt to influence either Council or City Staff. That is a fact and the Commissioner acknowledges this in his report.

The Commissioner this morning found that I complied with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. The Commissioner and his lawyer stated that I did not breach the act, and the act did not apply to my discussions with the private parties. However, he found that common law principles applied to these discussions, outside the statute. The Commissioner has now recommended codifying common law principles in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

I endorse the Commissioner's suggestion that there has to be a practical, low-cost way to ensure that municipal councillors can seek advice and understand these issues. In this regard, I support his recommendations for substantial reforms at the provincial level, changes in the Mississauga code of conduct, and an expanded role for integrity commissioners.

I will work with City Council and Association of Municipalities of Ontario to achieve these objectives.

It is gratifying to know that the Commissioner recognized that I have always put the interests of the City first. I will continue to do so in the new environment set out by the Commissioner.

The Commissioner has asked for my personal support of these recommendations. I appreciate his recognition of my years of careful stewardship of the interests of Mississauga. I support his efforts to update the ethical infrastructure for elected municipal officials. Council has been working towards this objective, and it will continue to be a priority.