

Report from Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner, dated March 4, 2024, titled "Formal Code of Conduct Complaint #01191023 Investigation Report of Committee of Adjustment Member John Li"

I refer to the findings of the above investigation report by the Integrity Commissioner Suzanne Craig which I have the following points to make.

The report mentioned that Mr. John Li, being a member of the Committee of Adjustment (COA) is in breach of the code of conduct by making unwelcome statements to staff. I find the assessment is indeed accurate literally. However, one must ask whether the "unwelcome" comments are defamatory OR are based on facts and prudent reasoning.

After seeing the email exchanges between Mr Li and Ms Craig, it seems obvious that Mr. Li's comments are directed to the non-transparency of the COA and the dominance of the developers in COA decisions. I am sure that most, if not all, council members are fully aware of these problems. If I remember correctly, some of the council members actually campaigned on the platform of bringing transparency to the city governance.

The question we have here is if someone voiced concerns that can be backed with facts and data, should that person be penalised simply because there are people who find the comments unwelcome? I believe such actions ought to be encouraged instead. We can only improve if we are willing to face fact based criticisms.

I can understand Ms Craig's hands are tied as she can only judge according to what the rules says. It is up to the council to fix the rules so we can no longer hide behind our protective shields.

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