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Police Services Board Member Clark Somerville's activities - focus of bureau inv

Posted on Monday, November 27 @ 10:37:10 EST by [editor](#)

UPDATE: Clark Somerville replaced on Halton Regional Police Services Board



March 20, 2007

Halton - Halton Hills: Councillor Clark Somerville is no longer a member of the Halton Regional Police Services Board. The Councillor became a main subject of one of the Bureau's own investigations, after the department received complaints logged against the Police Services Board Member.

The complaints concerned the conduct of Police Services Board member in the last municipal election. After an internal investigation by the Halton Regional Police Services, the matter was forwarded to the Anti-rackets Investigation Bureau of the O.P.P.. The matter was also brought to the attention of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

The issues concern allegations that Councillor Clark Somerville had distributed private and confidential information about one of his critics - gained from a number of Municipal Voters Lists - which he then electronically distributed over the Internet.

O.P.P. Anti-rackets Detective Sergeant John VandenHeuvel reported to the Herald; the department's reasonable expectations in meeting its conviction criteria, was questionable, therefore, they will not be pressing charges. However, the detective also added; "the actions of the alleged suspect are arguably open to criticism".

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, who also investigated the complaints - evolving from Councillor Somerville's behaviour during the last municipal election, noted concerns about the Councillor's integrity with Halton Hills Town Clerk, Karen Landry, stating; "Councillors, being public figures must hold themselves to higher standards and that Councillor Somerville's e-mails were not reflective of that". As a result, the Commissioner reports; "Ms Landry (Town Clerk) will be issuing a memo to Councillors to remind them of their responsibilities to maintain these high standards in such written communication. She will also remind Councillors of the importance of the Act and their responsibilities as it pertains to individuals' privacy".

Councillor Somerville has since been replaced as a Halton Regional Police Services Board member.

Original story..

Clark Somerville allegedly caught disclosing and distributing privileged, confidential, personal information gained from voters lists

November 17, 2006

Halton Hills: A complaint and challenge has been registered with the Clerk's office in the Town of Halton Hills contesting Councillor Clark Somerville's Provincial Certification of acclimation as a Regional Councillor for Wards 1 & 2.

The Challenge was logged on the day after the election, November 14th, 2006, over Councillor Clark Somerville's alleged Municipal Act infractions of disclosing privileged, confidential private information gained from a government voters lists.

As with all Candidates, the Town of Halton Hills Clerk, Karen Landry confirmed incumbent Councillor Clark Somerville was required and did sign an agreement confirming his acknowledgement of the laws concerning the Municipal Act and his legal responsibilities when provided his copies of the voters lists.

It is illegal for any candidate to disclose or distribute **any** information gained from a voters list, and it is alleged that Councillor Clark Somerville was caught distributing information gained from three voters lists to a number of people on two separate occasions.

The issue was forwarded to The Halton Regional Police Services Governing Board which Councillor Somerville is a member of. The Police Services Board has promised to address the issue at its next meeting. Complaints have also been logged with the Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, The Ontario Minister's Office of Municipal Affairs as well as Ontario's Minister of the Attorney General.

Subsequent follow-up story...

Police Services Board Member Clark Somerville's activities - focus of bureau investigations

November 27, 2006

Halton - Halton Hills: Councillor Clark Somerville, a board member of the Halton Regional Police Services is under the current investigation of its own department, the OPP and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario for matters concerning allegations of 'Breach of Public Trust' and 'Breach of the Municipal Act'.

The allegations include: 3 counts of breaching the Municipal Act and two counts of breaching public trust, stemming from an issue involving Councillor Somerville distributing confidential privilege information gained from three municipal voters list on two separate occasions.