

Mississauga News

Councillor will get her gala answers

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City of Mississauga staff is working on providing answers to Ward 10 councillor Sue McFadden's questions about the Mayor Hazel McCallion's annual gala.

Commissioner of Corporate Services and Treasurer Brenda Breault has asked councillors for direction on the matter. She said it's estimated it will take staff about five or six hours to prepare responses to McFadden's request.

McFadden had previously termed the gala "a party for Hazel and the well-to-do" and said that it occupied a significant amount of staff time, which could otherwise have been spent on other City business.

In response, the mayor asked staff to keep track of "the amount of staff time that has been spent during the last several weeks putting together information regarding this matter."

Information provided shows that a decade of galas, from 1997 to 2007, raised \$6 million - with \$1.2 million going to charity.

Much of the money spent paid for high-profile entertainment, decorations and meals. In 2007, the cost of the entertainment was \$436,283.98.

Councillors voted to have staff provide the answers.

"Considering what we just spent on an integrity commissioner, this is a drop in the bucket," said McFadden, referring to the hiring of lawyer **George Rust-D'Eye** at a cost of \$600 per hour.

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Ward 10 Councillor Sue McFadden has asked for a review on the naming of City facilities.

The current policy states that, traditionally, facilities are named only for deceased people. However, in certain cases, exceptions are granted. An example would be the recent re-naming of the 200-seat Burnhamthorpe Library theatre to honour former Ward 3 Councillor Maja Prentice.

Ward 8 Councillor Katie Mahoney said she approached staff in the past about having a baseball diamond named after a living volunteer and was rebuffed. Adfding that it was the only such request she had made in all her years in office, Mahoney said she was told by staff that it couldn't be accommodated and that it would set a precedent.

The City's policy on naming facilities allows any

member of Council to bring forward a request to be looked into by staff. Staff has the option to waive the requirement that recognition be posthumous.

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The leak of a confidential City e-mail to the media could represent a "serious systemic problem for the City," Integrity Commissioner **George Rust-D'Eye** told councillors in his formal report. But said he still doesn't know who did it.

The commissioner's 33-page report indicated Rust-D'Eye was ultimately unable to determine who was responsible for the leak and therefore couldn't conclude that the act was a violation of the municipality's Code of Conduct, which applies only to members of Council.

Ward 5 Councillor Eve Adams asked for the total cost of the report. That information isn't available yet, staff said.

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Ward 11 Councillor George Carlson has asked staff to further define the City's policy on fundraising. Carlson said he's often asked to help raise funds for community organizations and wanted to know what is and isn't appropriate.

"We all like to help, but I don't want be hung out to dry because I helped the Bread & Honey Festival raise \$40,000 and then find out I did something wrong," said Carlson. "It's of some concern for those of us called upon to do so on a regular basis."

City solicitor Mary Ellen Bench said the Code of Conduct addresses general issues surrounding fundraising. She told councillors that staff would be reviewing the code in April and would welcome any specific questions that need to be addressed.

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