

Statement By the Integrity Commissioner Sal J. LoVecchio

February 11, 2020 4:30PM

The expense claims of Councillor Joe Magliocca have become the subject matter of recent press articles. As part of that discussion, the Complaints process of the Integrity Commissioner and more specifically an investigation by me into the matter has been part of that discussion.

I keep a very detailed diary of appointments. In fact, I had lunch at Franca's restaurant on Edmonton Trail with Councillor Magliocca on July 19, 2019. The lunch was purely social and not part of any investigation I currently had under way. It was simply a social lunch. As is often the case, who pays at these social lunches may vary from time to time. Councillor Magliocca indicated he wished to pay. I did not object, I simply said if there was to be another one it would be for my account.

In the last 24 hours, it has come to my attention that Councillor Magliocca expensed that lunch to his Councillor Account and obtained reimbursement. The taxpayers of the City of Calgary should not be paying for a social lunch of mine and I am deeply concerned to find out that this has occurred.

But this is not the real problem. The real problem is I have now been formally asked to investigate the matter of his expense claims and I must recuse myself from doing so. The reason is really quite straight forward. This investigation must not only be but must be seen to be completely independent and impartial. As this expense might become part of the story, an investigation by me, in my view, would not satisfy that requirement.

I have advised Council of my decision and will, if asked, assist Council in finding someone else to undertake this investigation.