

City integrity commissioner looked into gala

From pg. 25

In 2011, Donald Cameron, Brampton's integrity commissioner, was asked by Fennell to investigate whether or not she had asked people to "contribute substantial amounts to the Mayor's Gala in excess of the price of dinner tickets in order not to incur disfavour with the Mayor."

In his report Cameron said he questioned the mayor about it and wrote "she strongly denies" it. He subsequently cleared Fennell.

When questioned if she asked for more than dinner tickets Fennell pointed to Cameron's report.

"The IC had these and other allegations before him. He thoroughly investigated the facts interviewing witnesses and reviewed all kinds of documentation...The Integrity Commissioner found no wrongdoing."

Other emails, almost all of them made from her city email account during weekday business hours, show the solicitations went beyond developers.

Fennell emailed Peel Region CAO David Szwarc on June 22, 2009, asking for separate golf foursome purchases for Szwarc, Peel Region chair

Emil Kolb, and Peel Living, the region's non-profit housing corporation.

In 2008 Fennell sent an email to fellow members of the police board soliciting \$32,000 to buy eight tables: two for the region, two for the police department, two for the police board and two for a business that a board member worked for.

Under the subject line "2009 mayor's gala" she wrote, "Please confirm, so they can be reserved.....Gala will sell out early after last year's success".

In a June 25, 2010, message to Mark Brager of New Flyer, which has sold buses to Brampton, Fennell writes, "please consider Newflyer participating in the Mayors Golf Classic and a hole sponsor."

On the same day she wrote to Omar Rashid of Microsoft Canada: "Omar, please confirm hole sponsor, 4-some and bronze sponsorship would be great."

In April 2009, to Doug Munro, the head of Maritime Ontario and the current chair of Fennell's gala board, she wrote: "May I request that you consider a silver sponsorship (12,500.00)".

Fennell did not respond to questions about the emails.

- Torstar News Service



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