



Media Release

September 10, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COURT ORDERS WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE MAYOR TO RECOVER AND RETURN CONFIDENTIAL MATERIALS

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The Ontario Superior Court of Justice ordered on Monday that Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann must “identify and deliver up” to the Town any Confidential Information in his “possession, power or control.”

The court also ordered Altmann to “identify any and all individuals and/or third parties” to whom he distributed the material and for them to return it to the Town.

In the first week of June, it was reported to the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville’s Chief Administrative Officer that Mayor Justin Altmann distributed confidential information and personnel records to members of the public. This release of information relates to matters previously investigated by the Town’s Integrity Commissioner involving a Council Code of Conduct complaint against the Mayor.

As Mayor, Altmann has a duty to protect confidential information and abide by the Town’s rules, by-laws and Code of Conduct. Mayor Altmann was asked to assist with the return of the confidential material, and when that assistance was not forthcoming, the Town commenced legal proceedings.

The Town alleges that in the summer of 2017 personal and confidential information was photocopied and included in binders that were provided to individuals. This included the personal information of 24 current and former employees, including overtime claims, salary information and employment history. The information also included descriptions of 14 closed session Council matters and documents contrary to the Town’s by-laws.

On September 10th, 2018, the Superior Court ordered that:

- Altmann identify and deliver to the Town any and all records that include Confidential Information in his possession, power or control;
- Altmann identify any and all individuals and/or third parties to whom he distributed physical or electronic copies of records containing any Confidential Information by way of a sworn affidavit; and

- Any individuals and/or third-parties to whom Altmann has distributed Confidential Information to identify and deliver to the Town any and all records that include Confidential Information in their possession.

It is a serious offence to violate a court order.

The court order is what is referred to as a consent order. Mayor Altmann consented to this order without admitting liability. A consent order helps to reduce additional legal expenses. To date, the Town has incurred approximately \$80,000 in legal fees related to the action.

About the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is one of the jewels of the GTA, located just north of Toronto on Highway 404. We are a community rich in heritage and character and we are committed to offering our residents and businesses 'Country Close to the City'.

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