



October 4, 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TOWN FORCED TO RETURN TO COURT IN ALTMANN LITIGATION**

**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE** – On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ordered that Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann must “identify and deliver up” to the Town any and all records that include Confidential Information in his “possession, power or control.”

Altmann has surrendered binders that were distributed at a backyard barbeque in 2017, but has failed to identify any other Confidential Information in his possession. Given Altmann has stated publicly that he possesses “40 binders and 5,000 e-mails”, the Town has a continuing concern. Despite the court order, Altmann has neither identified precisely what documents these binders contain nor accepted the Town’s request to inspect the binders.

As a result, the Town must return to court to obtain an order that will allow it to inspect the binders and recover any Confidential Information that Altmann continues to possess. Notice was served on Altmann on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 with a court date expected in November.

### **Background**

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.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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