



Hamilton

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Ferguson says public release of security video shows real picture

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Ancaster, ON – Ancaster Councillor Lloyd Ferguson today withdrew his appeal of the release of City Hall surveillance tape behind the “push”.

“This story has been going on for 18 months and has put a lot of stress on my family and, distracted me from doing my job as the re-elected Councillor serving the residents of Ancaster and the citizens of Hamilton on many key municipal projects,” Ferguson said in announcing he’s advised the necessary freedom of information offices of his decision to withdraw his earlier attempt to quash it.

Ferguson said after a long Council meeting and a divisive issue that was debated in-camera on that night in February 2014, he instinctively moved Joey Coleman away from a private conversation he was having with City Hall staffer Mike Kirkopoulos.

“As most people know, I publicly apologized for interfering with reporter Joey Coleman and moving him away from a private conversation I was having in the lobby,” Mr. Ferguson admits. “Mr. Coleman accepted my apology and I imposed penalties on myself, including stepping down from a sub-committee that was hiring the city’s new integrity commissioner and made a personal donation of \$1,000 to Ancaster Community Services.”

While he accepts responsibility for his actions, and has participated willingly in a probe by the integrity commissioner as well as an OPP investigation – all leading to the matter being closed, “there continues to be an attack on my character that I find upsetting and unwilling to ignore”.

Due to the misinformation that continues to circulate on this incident and now through the production of an online video, Mr. Ferguson wants to “set the record straight” by allowing the surveillance video to be made public.

“The whole incident took approximately five seconds... five seconds,” Ferguson said, providing a play-by-play commentary of the incident. “You will see for yourself that Mr. Coleman comes up behind me, trying to listen to a private conversation I was having with a staff member. You will see me spot him, point to him to step back, but he comes closer, so I take him by the arm and step him back about four feet. I then walked from the building – nobody ‘dragged me’ out of City Hall.”

In addition to the video surveillance that he believes challenges the allegations made in the online video, Mr. Ferguson has attached the transcript of it and highlights public statements that are not supported by the events captured on the City Hall surveillance tape.

Mr. Ferguson said he can’t help that some aren’t happy with the outcome of how his actions were put under the ethics microscope, “but we live in a society where rulings are made and consequences accepted. I accepted the consequences of my actions that day, and Mr. Coleman publicly acknowledged on his website that he agreed with the decision.”

Note: On October 27, 2014, after the Coleman incident on February 26, 2014, Mr. Ferguson was elected to his third, consecutive term on Hamilton City Council, defeating three challengers with a plurality of 79%.

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