

- Good afternoon Your Worship, City Councillors and senior staff.
- My name is David Arbuckle and I am a proud resident of Ward 14 in Greensville/West Flamborough/Dundas/Hamilton.
- I was also a citizen member of the Accountability and Transparency SubCommittee during this term of council.
- I would like to thank council for that appointment and the opportunity to make a contribution to my community.
- It is the work of that committee that I want to briefly discuss here today.
- As you would all be aware, the Accountability and Transparency Subcommittee was tasked with developing a lobbyist registry model for the City.
- Through a number of meetings and a lot of hard work by both the committee and city staff, I believe a reasonable, cost effective, made in Hamilton solution has been developed for endorsement.
- On October 16, 2013, this solution was presented to City Council and, after considerable debate, deferred to the budget process.

- Now that I've recapped the most recent history, I would like to voice my support for the enactment of the lobbyist registry as presented in the budget.
- The issue of establishing a lobbyist registry for Hamilton predates my involvement on this committee but I know many of you on council have been dealing with the topic for some time.
- At the meeting in October, I heard a number of comments from councillors about how a lobbyist registry was going to negatively impact their relationship with constituents, community organizations and companies looking to invest in Hamilton.
- While the accompanying by-law seeks to address some of these concerns, there is no doubt that a lobbyist registry in Hamilton will change the way that both councillors and prospective lobbyists do their work.
- This is a good thing for both Councillors and those looking to access city programs, services and resources.
- Councillors and outside influencers operate in an environment that currently has very few rules and that poses a potential risk to the reputation of Council, senior staff and the City as a whole.

- Instituting a lobbyist registry for the City of Hamilton would not only create more transparency at the municipal level but it will also create a new stakeholder environment that is more clearly understood by those who are part of the system and those looking to access the system.
- On the topic of cost for the proposed registry, I can say without hesitation that the subcommittee was very mindful of the need to bring forward a solution that was 1) implementable and 2) cost effective.
- The proposal that has been brought forward is certainly not the Rolls Royce of lobbyist registry models but I believe it will serve both Council and the public very well.
- During budget time and so close to a municipal election, I know there is sensitivity to spending municipal resources but I believe, and I know my fellow citizen subcommittee members agree, that this is a worthwhile investment for Hamilton.
- I commend the subcommittee for doing their homework and taking the time to get it right.
- I would hope, through the budget, that you will support this important initiative.

- I would again like to thank you for the opportunity to be a member of the subcommittee and allowing me the time to speak here today.
- This concludes my very brief presentation and would be very pleased to answer any questions you might have.