

From: Lakewood Beach Community Council
Sent: February-03-16 9:47 AM
To: Caterini, Rose
Subject: Lobbyist Registry

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council Members:

The recent focus on the Lobbyist Registry has raised an interesting observation. The Registry in its current format basically is a by-law which by design disengages the public, specifically the ordinary individual taxpayer residing in the city of Hamilton.

Since the inception of the by-law, an individual taxpayer, who may have communicated with a member of Council (other than their own elected official or the mayor) either in person, or via twitter, email, etc with an opinion on most matters before Council which affect the residential tax levy, or something as simply as "Hey ---, are you going to get those potholes filled on Burlington St before someone end up with major car repairs" is essentially "lobbying" under this By-Law.

Which raises an interesting point: How many members of Council have had communication from citizens, who don't live in your Ward, on matters that affect them and other citizens financially? Any opposing widening the RHVP/LINC because of the tax burden? Any comments from taxi drivers/individual citizens on UBER which were focused on an industry's financial interests or on other citizen's financial interest? Any comments from taxpayers on Bus Transit or LRT focused on the costs (tax levy)? Any communications with citizens, outside your Ward, on any Motions or Notices of Motions that affect our taxes? Or even any ideas on ways to reduce the tax levy or suggested amendments during the Budget process which affect all taxpayers? If so, those are "voluntary unpaid lobbyist" activities.

And if so, the obligation was on Council members to report these incidences since August 1 of last year. (*Seriously though, is it really the intent to report individual taxpayers and initiate investigations of this nature?*)

It is our humble opinion that our Lobbyist Registry by-law needs further attention and this matter should be referred to GIC for review.

Respectfully,

Lakewood Beach Community Council

P.S. Our goal here is to stop wasting our property tax money on a by-law that does not meet the public's expectations or the intent of having this accountability tool on our shelf. Interesting enough, if we were sending this communication from just one of us, and outside of the Council Agenda's Communication, we'd be lobbying 14 Councillors. But because it is being sent from the association which has no paid staff we're exempt. Is this logical?