



**Hamilton**

City Clerks Office

## Memorandum

**Date:** February 5, 2016  
**To:** Mayor and members of City Council  
**From:** Christopher Newman – Program Coordinator

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The Lobbyist Registry has worked to enhance the transparency and integrity of the City of Hamilton's decision making through the disclosure of lobbying activities to members of the public, by those who wish to lobby Hamilton's public office holders.

The Lobbyist Registry By-law does not seek to disengage citizens from being able to speak to members of Council or Senior Management Team. Rather, it provides very specific direction on activities that are to be reported via the online registry. Under the By-law there are specific requirements which need to be met, to be considered a lobbyist. One key component is "the goal of advancing a business or financial interest." In many cases citizens looking to discuss matters with public office holders are seeking to have an issues resolved or seek a positive outcome for their community. In cases such as these, it is difficult to comprehend how these types of conversations could be considered the advancing of their business or financial interest. Furthermore, the By-law provides exemptions specifically relating to communications where the primary focus is a broad community benefit or detriment, whether City-wide or local, and where that position would have no direct, indirect or perceived benefit to a business or financial interest of the individual, business or other entity on whose behalf the communication is undertaken.

The By-law clearly indicates that lobbyists are solely responsible for reporting their lobbying activity, and it is not the duty of public office holders.

The Lobbyist Registry is always eager to help educate lobbyists and members of the public about the registry.