



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 7, 2017
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Lobbyist Registry By-law (CL17006) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Lisa Barroso, ext 2743 Manager of Records & Freedom of Information Christopher Newman, ext 2190 Program Coordinator
SUBMITTED BY:	Rose Caterini City Clerk
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

The Lobbyist Registry By-law No. 14-244 (By-law), was passed September 10, 2014 and came into force on August 1, 2015. The By-law includes a review provision which states that the General Issues Committee (GIC) shall review and make recommendations to City Council with respect to the By-law no later than two years after the day on which it comes into force. (See By-law attached as Appendix A to report CL17006).

INFORMATION:

The Lobbyist Registrar and staff are responsible for the promotion of the By-law and for supporting transparency through administering the By-law. The three core functions of administering the By-law are: maintaining the Registry, undertaking activities for stakeholder education and engagement and enforcing the By-law. As a tool supporting transparency, it is important that lobbying be disclosed according to the By-law, and that the information on the Registry is accurate, accessible and searchable. Stakeholders should be aware of and understand the requirements of the By-law and providing information is key to achieving compliance.

It is important that we provide education and outreach to public office holders, the public and lobbyists about the By-law and registration system. Engaging in educational

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activities about the By-law's application encourages best practices and helps to nurture a vibrant ethical culture amongst stakeholders who see the value of compliance. Our outreach activities included:

- Using an internet based tool to disseminate news about the Registry and the By-law;
- Conducting in-house training sessions for lobbyist and members of the public;
- Providing advice and interpretations of the By-law;
- Distributing printed By-law information materials to public office holders, including councillors and their staff and City staff;
- Conducting outreach sessions, including meetings and presentations, for public office holders;
- Providing information about the By-law and registration system to members of Council and their staff, as well as City employees.

Many individuals who are interested in lobbying at the City of Hamilton are already familiar with either the federal Lobbyist Registry, or one of the provincial registries and have basic information respecting how lobbyist registries work. This has supported our outreach activities.

The Lobbyist Registrar is solely responsible for handling the enforcement aspects of the By-law. The Lobbyist Registrar and Program Coordinator provide advice, and interpretation of the By-law, review, verify and approve registrations and update the registry, develop and deliver information, training and materials, provide advice on compliance issues and conduct assessments for individuals with questions about the Registry.

Since the launch of the Lobbyist Registry and online tool, there have been no complaints filed under the By-law.

We have worked to make the Lobbyist Registry website as accessible and informative as possible. The website provides the following information to the public, public office holders, staff and lobbyists, including:

- The By-law
- The online Lobbyist registration tool
- Quick reference guide about Lobbying
- Information about how to contact the Lobbyist Registry Office for information and advice.
- Education & Outreach to All Stakeholders.
- Notices appear on 28 relevant City webpage's notifying individuals about the existence of the Lobbyist Registry.

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We understand from users that the online tool has proven to be easy and intuitive to use. Lobbyists can create a secure account and log their subject matter within ten minutes. Subject matters are good for up to a maximum of 365 days. There are some outstanding issues with the back end of the online tools design that will have to be addressed through consultation with IT Services.

Since the launch of the Lobbyist Registry online tool, 86 lobbyists have registered their representation of 134 subject matters, to lobby members of Council, their staff and the City's Senior Leadership Team. The most frequently registered subject matters are as follows:

Subject Matter Category	Number of Registrations
Planning and Economic Development Combined Application	14
Economic Development	13
By-law/Regulation	9
Environment	9
Transit	9
Transportation	8
Infrastructure	7

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

The development of the By-law began through the work of the Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee grappled with the development of the By-law as well as tackling numerous good governance and accountability issues through their tenure.

The City of Hamilton approved the By-law on September 10, 2014. From the time of the Council approval to the launch of the registry, City staff began developing training material, and the online web tool that allow lobbyists to log their lobbying activities. The tools main goals were to develop an attractive, easy to use solution for lobbyist to register their subject matters and likewise for members of the public to quickly search the registry. The online Lobbyist Registry tool took 7 months to develop and was implemented under budget. The Lobbyist Registry was launched on August 1, 2015.

When the City of Hamilton launched the Lobbyist Registry, we were the third to do so in the Province of Ontario, with the cities of Toronto (Toronto's Lobbyist Registry is

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mandated in the *City of Toronto Act*) and Ottawa preceding us. Since the launch of the City of Hamilton's Lobbyist Registry By-law three additional Ontario municipalities have developed and implemented lobbyist registries: Brampton, Vaughan and the Region of Peel. The newly developed Lobbyist Registry By-laws in these three municipalities borrow extensively from the framework that was developed and implemented in the City of Hamilton.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Legal Services and the Lobbyist Registrar were consulted and can assist with the review upon direction from GIC.

REVIEW OF THE BY-LAW

The By-law includes the provision requiring a review by August 1, 2017.

Option 1:

If there are minor amendments, GIC can provide direction to staff and an amending By-law will be prepared.

Option 2:

If Committee wishes to have a more detailed review, an option would be to refer the review of the By-law to the Governance Review Sub-Committee (GRSC) for recommendation to GIC.

Option 3:

If Committee is satisfied with the current By-law, GIC can receive Report CL17006 and consider the review completed.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A – By-law 14-244 To Establish and Maintain a Lobbyist Registry