

Implementation of the Mandatory Lobbyist Registry

**Committee of the Whole (Working Session)
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Synopsis

Regulation of Lobbying Activities

Lobbying conducted by interested parties is in many respects a positive contributor to debate and is an important part of the governing process. The lobbying of Members of Council and staff on municipal issues can enhance the deliberative process by providing the perspective of stakeholders that might otherwise be lost. Greater transparency of that process, however, will enhance the public's perception that decisions are being made in an accountable way.

KEY POINTS:

- Lobbying is a positive contributor to the governing process
- Greater transparency of lobbying activities will enhance the public's perception that decisions are being made in an accountable way



Lobbyist Registry

Current Status

June 7th, 2016

- Council approved the recommendation of the City Clerk [Item 9, Report No. 26, Committee of the Whole (Working Session)] to enact a by-law to establish a voluntary Lobbyist Registry for the City of Vaughan

June 28th, 2016

- By-law 105-2016 passed and came into effect on January 1st, 2017

Website

- Developed to provide access to the lobbyist registry and to allow lobbyists the opportunity to register themselves and their activities, as well as providing general information.

Lobbyist Registry

Current Status

January 3rd, 2017

- First registrations

Current Status

- 14 lobbyists registered, including both open and closed lobbyists.
- Registrations include 10 different clients, not including self-representations
- 15 different subject matters
- 71 issues/activities registered.

Lobbyist Registry

Current Status

June 27th, 2017

- Council approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$250,000
- Addresses the new Office of the Lobbyist Registrar, administrative staff and website maintenance/enhancement.

Appointment of the Lobbyist Registrar

- Ms. Suzanne Craig appointed as part-time Lobbyist Registrar
- Remainder of the 2014-2018 Council term and for the following term of Council from 2018 – 2022.
- The appointment will become effective with implementation of the mandatory lobbyist registry.

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

New Features

- Inquiries, Sanctions and Prosecutions
- Notification of Penalties
- Obligations of the Public Office Holders
- Enhancements to the Lobbyist Registry

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

Inquiries, Sanctions and Prosecutions

- Section 223.9(1) of the Municipal Act allows for a municipality to “Impose conditions for registration, continued registration or a renewal of registration” and to “Refuse to register a person, and suspend or revoke a registration”.
- The proposed penalty structure is:
 - **First Offence** - Prohibition of lobbying activities until an information and education meeting with the Lobbyist Registrar is held
 - **Second Offence** - 3 month prohibition of lobbying activities
 - **Third or Subsequent Offences** - Prohibition of lobbying activities as determined by the Lobbyist Registrar

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

Notification of Penalties

- Where the Lobbyist Registrar determines that there has been a violation, the resultant penalty must be communicated to the lobbyist, Public Office Holders and general public.
- Information about the lobbyist and their penalty will be published on the City's Lobbyist Registry website and communicated to the Public Office Holders.

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

Obligations of the Public Office Holders

- The Public Office Holder shall cease any lobbying related communications with a lobbyist who is prohibited from lobbying; and,
- The Public Office Holder is responsible for providing information in a timely manner to the Lobbyist Registrar with regards to an inquiry being conducted by the Registrar

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

Enhancements to the Lobbyist Registry

- search engine that allows searching of the Registry by specific criteria (i.e. name of lobbyist, subject matter)
- improved administration module
- ability for lobbyists to register multiple in-house lobbyists under one corporate name
- e-mail to the Public Officer Holder when they are identified in a registration
- Training/testing site

Lobbyist Registry

Next Steps

Office of the Lobbyist Registrar Working Group

- The OLR Working Group will assist the Lobbyist Registrar for the Mandatory Lobbyist Registry to identify and develop information and education tools to facilitate understanding the purpose and role of the Office and the rules, application and enforcement of the Mandatory Lobbyist Registry.
- Membership includes:
 - Chief Financial Officer and City Treasurer
 - Chief Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations
 - Chief Information Officer
 - Chief Human Resources Officer
 - City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk
 - With support from the City Manager and City Solicitor

Lobbyist Registry Questions

