



LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Office of the Lobbyist Registrar 2007 Operating Budget

Date:	May 15, 2007
To:	City Council
From:	Lobbyist Registrar
Wards:	City-wide
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report sets out operating budget requirements for the new Lobbyist Registry function for 2007, and forecasts budgetary requirements for the first full year of operation in 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. The 2007 Operating Budget for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar be approved at \$802,000; and
2. Funding in the amount of \$561,000 be transferred from the 2007 Approved Non-Program Budget to the 2007 Operating Budget for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

Financial Impact

Funds in the amount of \$241,000 were approved in the 2007 Operating Budget for the Lobbyist Registrar's Office for the Lobbyist Registrar and an assistant. Provision was made in Non-Program for the remainder of funding requirements for the Office, pending a report back on 2007 Operating Budget requirements. The total amount of funding required for 2007 for the Lobbyist Registrar's Office is \$802,000. Funding in the amount of \$561,000 is available in the Non-Program budget and it is recommended that this funding be transferred to the Lobbyist Registrar's 2007 Approved Operating Budget.

It is anticipated that the funding requirements for 2008, reflecting the full year impact of this new initiative, will be \$1,069,400. The Lobbyist Registrar's Office will provide the 2008 Budget submission for consideration by Budget Committee through the City's operating budget process.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In June 2006, the Province enacted the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, which requires the City to establish a lobbyist registry.

At its September 2006 meeting, City Council directed the City Manager to take steps necessary to implement the lobbyist registry as soon as possible following proclamation of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. At its February 2007 meeting, City Council approved the draft Lobbying By-law (By-law 150-2007) to add Chapter 140, Lobbying, to the Municipal Code. City Council also appointed the first Lobbyist Registrar for the City of Toronto.

A commitment was made to provide a further report to Council on the budgetary requirements for 2007 for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

COMMENTS

2007 is a transition year for the lobbyist registry function. Development of the Office and a web-based registration system are underway, and the lobbyist registry will be launched this summer following a communication and public education campaign.

Toronto's lobbyist registry is the first of its kind at the municipal level in Canada. The lobbyist registry is an operational function, with responsibility to review, process and approve registrations. It was estimated that the Office will require a complement of 7 staff to maintain effective service levels to stakeholders and the public. Some permanent positions will be filled on a temporary basis or delayed pending determination of the ongoing staffing needs. The outcome will be reflected in the 2008 Budget submission.

Funds in the amount of \$241,000 were approved in the 2007 Operating Budget to cover initial staff costs. Provision was made in Non-Program for the remainder of funding requirements for the Office.

Operating requirements for the Office have been reviewed, and total funding required for 2007 for the Lobbyist Registrar's Office is \$802,000. This reflects a reduction of \$131,000 from the preliminary pro-rated estimate for 2007. Funding in the amount of \$561,000 is available in the Non-Program budget and it is recommended that this funding be transferred to the Lobbyist Registrar's 2007 Approved Operating Budget.

CONTACT

Martin Herzog, Manager, Lobbyist Registry, Office of the Lobbyist Registrar
(416-392-5491; mherzog@toronto.ca)

SIGNATURE

Marilyn Abraham, Lobbyist Registrar