



# Suzan Hall



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## MEMO

**Date:** November 6, 2008

**To:** Mayor David Miller  
Chair, Executive Committee

**cc:** Linda Gerke - Lobbyist Registrar  
Members of the Executive Committee

**From:** Councillor Suzan Hall

**Re:** **Changes to Lobbyist Registrar**

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Concern has been raised by myself and other Councillors regarding the reporting of lobbyist communication with City Council.

At present, lobbyist registration requires that the form of communication to the public office holder be listed. This can range from an actual meeting to the act of sending correspondence on a given issue.

The registration of proactive face-to-face meetings and direct telephone contact with the Councillor should be registered as this implies a degree of dialogue and interaction between the lobbyist and public office holder. The public may not differentiate between various forms of proactive lobbying and benign correspondence.

Letters and emails should be eliminated as they are a benign form of communication. Most Councillors and their support staff either quickly scan communiqués or bypass them if they appear to be trivial or of minimal interest. Given the high volume of mail that Councillors receive, selectiveness and prudence is used. It would be quite onerous and time-consuming to verify whether or not every piece of received mail has been registered with the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

I am requesting that staff report back to the Executive Committee with a revised bylaw to reflect that there is a clear distinction between proactive lobbying (face-to-face or telephone communication) and benign correspondence.

Sincerely,

Suzan Hall