



## LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Office of the Lobbyist Registrar – 2010 Budget

<b>Date:</b>	February 9, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Budget Committee
<b>From:</b>	Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### **SUMMARY**

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This report provides information relating to the 2010 budget for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar and a recommended budget for approval by the Budget Committee. The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar's 2010 Operating Budget Request of \$906.5 thousand is a reduction of 3.8% from the 2009 Approved Operating Budget of \$941.9 thousand. The 2010 Operating Budget Request will enable the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar to continue to promote the transparency and integrity of City government by maintaining an online public registry of lobbyists and regulating their conduct while managing with less staffing and financial resources.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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**The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:**

1. The Budget Committee approve the attached 2010 budget for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar and forward it to the Executive Committee.

#### **Financial Impact**

The financial impact of adopting the recommendation in this report will be a 3.8% reduction in the annual budget of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar to \$906.5 thousand for 2010 as compared with the 2009 Approved Operating Budget of \$941.9 thousand.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

This report is submitted by the Lobbyist Registrar to Budget Committee in accordance with Executive Committee Item 31.1 “A Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability Officers”, adopted as amended by City of Toronto Council April 29 and 30, 2009; and Chapter 3, Accountability Officers, Toronto Municipal Code, enacted by City Council October 27, 2009.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 168 authorizes the City of Toronto to appoint a Lobbyist Registrar who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by City Council. In February 2007, City Council adopted Chapter 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying, which established an independent Lobbyist Registrar reporting to City Council.

In April 2009, City Council adopted a Policy Framework for Toronto’s Accountability Officers. In October 2009, City Council enacted Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code, Accountability Officers. The Lobbyist Registrar is one of the City’s four Accountability Officers, together with the Auditor General, Integrity Commissioner and Ombudsman.

Chapter 3 provides that the Accountability Officers are independent and accountable to City Council. Section 3-10C requires each Accountability Officer to submit an annual budget request to the Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to City Council. Section 3-10D provides that an Accountability Officer’s request shall generally follow the corporate budget submission process as it relates to the level of information provided, and the formats used.

## **COMMENTS**

The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s 2010 Operating Budget Request of \$906.5 thousand, contained in the attached Appendix, is a reduction of 3.8% from the 2009 Approved Operating Budget of \$941.9 thousand. The majority of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s 2010 Operating Budget Request consists of salaries and benefits and has absorbed cost of living adjustments (COLA) and inflationary increases in non-salary items. The variance in the 2009 budget is mainly due to the gapping of one manager position and the delay in hiring the Inquiries and Investigations Counsel position, and savings in non-salary expenditures.

## **CONTACT**

Linda L. Gehrke  
Lobbyist Registrar  
City of Toronto  
[lgehrke@toronto.ca](mailto:lgehrke@toronto.ca)  
416-338-5865

## **SIGNATURE**

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Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix 1 – Office of the Lobbyist Registrar – 2010 Operating Budget