

Toronto Lobbyist Registrar – 2021 Operating Budget Request and 2022-2030 Capital Plan

Date: December 11, 2020
To: Budget Committee
From: Lobbyist Registrar
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Budget Committee's recommendation for City Council to approve the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar's 2021 Operating Budget Request of \$1.236 million gross and net, and its 2022-2030 Capital Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar's 2021 Operating Budget Request of \$1.236 million gross and net;
2. City Council approve the 2021 staff complement for the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar of 8.3 positions; and
3. City Council approve the 2022-2030 Capital Plan for the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar totalling \$0.950 million in project estimates as detailed by project in Appendix 6b.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of adopting the recommendation in this report will be the inclusion of:

1. the annual budget of the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar at \$1.236 million gross and net in the City of Toronto's 2021 Approved Operating Budget; and

2. \$0.950 million in the City of Toronto's 2022-2030 Capital Plan, fully funded from debt.

DECISION HISTORY

In accordance with the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code, the Lobbyist Registrar, as one of the City's four Accountability Officers, is independent and accountable to City Council. Each Accountability Officer is required to submit an annual budget request to the Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to City Council. Therefore, this report is submitted directly to Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to City Council. (Reference: *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 168(1); Chapter 3 of Toronto Municipal Code, s. 3-10C)

COMMENTS

Mandate of the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar (TLR)

The TLR promotes and enhances the transparency and integrity of City government decision-making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists' conduct. The TLR is responsible for: oversight of the lobbyist registration system, provision advising on Chapter 140, Lobbying, of the Toronto Municipal Code, conducting inquiries and investigations and enforcing compliance with Chapter 140, Lobbying (the By-law), and advising City Council on lobbying matters.

The TLR is one of the four independent Accountability Offices appointed by and reporting to Toronto City Council with responsibilities, powers and duties as set out in the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (COTA). The accountability provisions in COTA are vital to the effectiveness of the City's accountability framework and to strengthen public trust in government. COTA requires the City to maintain a Lobbyist Registry (Registry) and empowers the City to appoint a Registrar.

Duties of the Lobbyist Registrar

The Lobbyist Registrar is required by the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code to execute the following duties:

1. The independent carriage of the duties and responsibilities of the office as set out in Part V of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 3, Accountability Officers;
2. Oversight of the lobbyist registration system and the By-law, which includes interpretation and application of the By-law;
3. Review and assessment of registrations to guarantee compliance with the By-law;
4. Decision-making with respect to the refusal, acceptance, suspension or revocation of a registration;

5. Investigation of complaints regarding alleged breaches of the By-law, and where required in the public interest, the carriage of enforcement proceedings which may include the referral for prosecution of matters pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Act*;
6. Provision of outreach and training to all stakeholders on the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct and roles and responsibilities under the By-law;
7. Publication and presentation of an annual report to City Council on the activities of the TLR in the discharge of its duties;
8. Provision of information to the public about the City's lobbying control framework and how to access the Registry on the City's website;
9. Execution of the TLR's functions within a framework that fosters independence, confidentiality and public trust; and
10. Identification of matters that crossover with the mandates and processes of other Accountability Offices and facilitating coordination, when required in the public interest.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Cristina De Caprio
Lobbyist Registrar

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2021 Budget Notes – Toronto Lobbyist Registrar