



# LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

## Office of the Lobbyist Registrar – 2012 Operating Budget

<b>Date:</b>	November 23, 2011
<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 2012 operating budget request for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar for approval by the Budget Committee. The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar's 2012 Operating Budget Request of \$1,052.3 thousand net meets the requested budget target of a reduction equivalent to 2.6% of the approved 2011 budget.

The 2012 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.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:**

1. Budget Committee approve the attached 2012 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 an inclusion of the annual budget of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar at \$1,052.3 thousand in the City of Toronto's 2012 operating budget.

## **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 on April 29 and 30, 2009; and Chapter 3, Accountability Officers, Toronto Municipal Code, enacted by City Council on 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 2012 Operating Budget Request of \$1,052.3 thousand includes a reduction of \$26.6 thousand net or equivalent to 2.6% of the 2011 Approved Operating Budget, as requested. This reduction is achieved through the partial gapping of a staff position. The 2012 operating budget includes a budgetary provision to host the Conference of Canadian Lobbyist Commissioners and Registrars in September 2012, with \$9.0 thousand gross and \$0 net impact.

The majority of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s 2012 Operating Budget Request consists of salaries and benefits. The budget reduction consists of a partial gapping of a Manager, Registry Operations position.

The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar projected a 2011 year-end net expenditure surplus of \$271.0 thousand. This is due to delayed hiring for staff positions and lower than planned

staffing costs, as well as lower spending on non-payroll items such as legal and investigative expenses. With the exception of the Manager, Registry Operations, all staff positions are now filled.

In September 2012, the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar will be hosting the Conference of Canadian Lobbyist Commissioners and Registrars. The 2012 Operating Budget Request includes \$9.0 thousand gross, with a net of \$0 as full cost recovery from conference registration fees is expected.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar