
2013 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Office of the Lobbyist Registrar – 2013-2022 Capital Budget and Plan

Issue/Background:

Budget Committee decided on December 12, 2012:

“That consideration of Item BU36.1q be deferred until the 2014 Budget Process.”

The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s 10-Year Capital Budget and Plan for the years 2012-2021 includes a State of Good Repair (SOGR) plan with a projected cost of 2 million dollars, to be implemented in the years 2018-2020. This plan was adopted by Council on January 17, 2012 (EX14.1 – 2012 Capital and Operating Budgets).¹

In the Budget Committee’s deliberations leading to its decision on December 12, 2012, questions were asked by members of the Committee about the reasons for the Lobbyist Registrar’s 2013-2022 Capital Budget and Plan, which includes the expenditure of 2 million dollars for State of Good Repair of the lobbyist registry’s internal operating system in the years 2018-2020. The purpose of this briefing note is to provide further information about the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s State of Good Repair Plan.

Key Points:

The *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 165 requires the City of Toronto to maintain a lobbyist registry which is available to the public. The OLR maintains an online, publicly available lobbyist registry, which meets this statutory requirement.

The lobbyist registry is supported by an internal operating system (IOS). The registry is available to the public 24 hours per day, seven days per week through the OLR’s website and is searchable. Data in the online registry is recorded in and managed by the IOS.

The lobbyist registry’s IOS was built by the City’s Information and Technology Division in 2007-2009 at a cost of 2 million dollars. The IOS was designed specifically for the information that must be collected under Chapter 140 of the Toronto Municipal Code (the Lobbying By-law).

¹ <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=5072>

Since 2010, the IOS has been maintained by City Clerk's information technology staff, as part of the support services that the City Clerk provides to the OLR.

The OLR's Capital Plan for 2013-2022 includes a State of Good Repair (SOGR) Plan for the lobbyist registry's IOS. The SOGR Plan ensures that the lobbyist registry will continue to meet the statutory requirement that the City maintain a publicly available lobbyist registry.

The OLR's Capital Plan for the years 2013-2022 contains the same SOGR Plan that was approved by Council as part of the budget process for the year 2012.²

It is anticipated that by 2018, the technology that was used to create the lobbyist registry's IOS will be out of date and will need to be replaced or updated.

Since launching in 2008, the registry's IOS has recorded and managed data from steadily and significantly increasing levels of lobbying activity: see Slide 6 of the Lobbyist Registrar's Presentation³ to Budget Committee on December 6, 2012 and Annual Reports for the years 2008⁴, 2009⁵, 2010⁶ and 2011⁷. For example:

- Subject matter updates have more than tripled from 1,072 subject matter updates in 2010 to 3,660 subject matter updates in 2012 to November 30th;
- New lobbyist registrations have nearly doubled, from 229 in 2010 to 427 in 2012 to November 30th;
- Lobbyist registration updates have more than doubled, from 306 in 2010 to 651 in 2012 to November 30th;
- Lobbyist registrations closed have increased sixfold, from 32 in 2010 to 195 in 2012 to November 30th;
- Subject matters closed have more doubled, from 346 in 2010 to 704 in 2012 to November 30th;
- The total number of active lobbyist registrations has increased steadily, from 1,047 at year end in 2010 to 1,268 at November 30th in 2012; and total active subject matter registrations have similarly increased, from 1,424 at year end 2010 to 1,733 at November 30, 2012.

In summary, the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar's State of Good Repair Plan is essential. It ensures that the OLR will be able to meet the statutory requirement that the City of Toronto maintain a lobbyist registry that is available to the public.

² See footnote 1, above.

³ <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-52726.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-18482.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/bgrd/CC47.5.pdf>

⁶ http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying/pdf/2010_annualreport.pdf

⁷ http://www.toronto.ca/lobbying/pdf/2011_annualreport.pdf

I would be happy to provide further information at the request of Budget Committee, Executive Committee or City Council.

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