



LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Office of Lobbyist Registrar – 2014 -2023 Capital Budget and Plan

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| Date: | November 27, 2013 |
| To: | Budget Committee |
| From: | Lobbyist Registrar |
| Wards: | All |
| Reference Number: | |

SUMMARY

This report seeks Budget Committee's recommendation for City Council to approve the Office of Lobbyist Registrar's 2014-2023 Capital Budget and Plan. This 10-Year Capital Budget and Plan provides the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar with the tools and resources needed over the next decade to provide and maintain an accessible, publicly available online lobbyist registry as required by the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 165. The Capital Budget and Plan totals \$2.375 million over the period from 2014 to 2023 for Legislated and State of Good Repair Projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. Budget Committee recommend to Executive Committee that City Council approve the 2014-2023 Capital Budget and Plan for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar of \$2.375 million.

Financial Impact

The financial impact of adopting the recommendation in this report will be the inclusion of \$2.375 million in the City of Toronto's 2014-2023 10-year Capital Budget and Plan, fully funded from debt.

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 the 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.

City Council deferred the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s 2013-2022 Capital Budget and Plan of \$2.355 million for consideration in the 2014 Budget process ([January 15 and 16, 2013, EX27.1, Recommendation 109, Accountability Offices](#)):
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=5669>

COMMENTS

The Lobbyist Registrar is responsible under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and the Lobbying By-law (Chapter 140, Toronto Municipal Code) for promoting and enhancing the transparency, accountability and integrity of City government decision making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists’ conduct.

The main instrument for doing this is the Lobbyist Registry, an online application used to make registrations and reports of lobbying at the City of Toronto available to the public and public office holders. Lobbyists are required to register before lobbying and to report their lobbying activities within three business days after they occur.

The Lobbyist Registry was launched more than five years ago, in February 2008. It was designed and developed by the City’s Information and Technology Division. Its maintenance and improvement was transferred to the City Clerk in 2010.

\$2.000 million or 84% of the capital plan is for State of Good Repair Projects while \$0.375 million or 16% is for Legislated Projects to maintain, update and improve the Lobbyist Registry system.

State of Good Repair Project

In 2018, the Lobbyist Registry system will be 10 years old. It is anticipated that by 2018, the technology that was used to create the Lobbyist Registry system will be out of date and need to be updated or replaced. The projected cost of this State of Good Repair project is \$2.000 million. The project will start in 2018 with completion targeted for 2020.

Legislated Project – Lobbyist Registry Mobile Device and Interface and Search Capability.

The first part of the Legislated Project of \$0.375 million is to implement an alternative channel for lobbyist registration using mobile devices in 2014. The second part of this project will update the disclosure (public) website with a “top searches” feature, which will improve the search capability of the online registry.

The mobile device project will improve the accessibility of the Lobbyist Registry system to registrants. Providing mobile device access will promote better and timelier compliance by lobbyists with the requirements of the Lobbying By-law, and enable the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar to meet its legislated mandate to provide public disclosure of lobbying activities through its Lobbyist Registry.

The current Lobbyist Registry system was designed and developed based on desktop computer usage rather than mobile devices. Reliance on mobile devices rather than desktop computers has increased dramatically in recent years. The Registry system is not accessible to mobile device users. This negatively affects the ability of those lobbyists who rely on mobile devices to comply with registration and reporting requirements in a timely manner. Providing mobile access will promote compliance with registration and reporting requirements by facilitating timely access. This in turn will result in more timely and complete disclosure to the public of lobbying activities in the Lobbyist Registry.

The “top searches” feature will enable the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar to identify and publicize the areas of lobbying in which there is the greatest interest, thus improving the Lobbyist Registry’s transparency and accessibility to the public. The need for a “top searches” feature results from a growing public interest in lobbying activities and the registry. This feature will enhance the public’s and public office holders’ ability to search the registry.

The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar’s capital projects will be developed by the City Clerk’s Office. I am advised that temporary capital staffing positions and capital sustainment positions required for the 10-Year Capital Plan will be reflected in the City Clerk’s Office operating budget requests. It is estimated that the impact on the City Clerk’s operating budget in 2014 will be \$0.031 million or 0.25 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) to develop an alternative channel for lobbyist registration.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

2011-2020 Capital Plan – Accountability Officers Budget Request Overview