



LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Report on an Inquiry into a Fundraising Event

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| Date: | February 11, 2014 |
| To: | City Council |
| From: | Lobbyist Registrar |
| Wards: | All |
| Reference Number: | |

SUMMARY

This is a report on an inquiry into a political fundraising event held on June 27, 2011 by the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) for Mayor Rob Ford. The Lobbyist Registrar found that:

1. By engaging in fundraising activities related to the fundraising event of June 27, 2011, BILD placed Mayor Ford in an apparent conflict of interest, contrary to the Lobbying By-law, § 140-45B.
2. The apparent conflict of interest created by BILD's fundraising activities continues and is likely to continue during the present term of Council. Lobbying of the Mayor by BILD during the remainder of this term of Council would likely also place the Mayor in a conflict of interest and therefore contravene § 140-45B.
3. By engaging in fundraising activities related to the fundraising event of June 27, 2011, BILD undertook to lobby by providing a gift or favour, contrary to the Lobbying By-law, § 140-42A.

The Lobbyist Registrar did not impose sanctions. The issue of political fundraising by lobbyists is relatively new and had not been addressed before this fundraiser. BILD co-operated with the inquiry. However, the Registrar noted that this is the second report in which she has found that BILD breached the Lobbying By-law and provided the following advice:

1. In order to avoid a further breach of § 140-45B by placing the Mayor in a conflict of interest, BILD is advised not to lobby the Mayor or his staff until the end of this term of Council on November 30, 2014.

2. BILD is advised to seek the advice of the Lobbyist Registrar before engaging in any political fundraising activities in the current municipal election campaigns, in order to avoid placing public office holders in a conflict of interest.
3. BILD's in-house lobbyists are requested to attend a training session in the Lobbying By-law, including the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct, to be provided by the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

This report is made in the public interest and to inform Council, the public, public office holders and lobbyists about political fundraising by lobbyists and the Lobbying By-law. Lobbyists and members of Council should seek advice from the Lobbyist Registrar and Integrity Commissioner on the involvement of lobbyists in political fundraising and other election activities. Lobbyists are encouraged to attend training sessions offered by the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar on the Lobbying By-law and Lobbyists' Code of Conduct.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. City Council receive the findings in the attached report.

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

The *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 169 and Toronto Municipal Code, Lobbying, § 3-7B, provide that the Lobbyist Registrar reports directly to Council on investigations and inquiries conducted by her.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar

ATTACHMENTS

Report to Council on an Inquiry into a Fundraising Event