Inquiry into Lobbying about Tender Call Nos. 67-2013 and 152-2013

Date: August 20, 2014
To: City Council
From: Lobbyist Registrar
Wards: All
Reference Number:

SUMMARY

In this inquiry, the Lobbyist Registrar has found that Jamie Besner of Sussex Strategy Group (“Sussex”), a registered consultant lobbyist, breached the Lobbying By-law by failing to report communications with public office holders and by communicating about two procurement processes when this was not permitted. In addition, Mr. Besner lobbied a public office holder after the related registered subject matter (SM18869) had been suspended. As a result, the Lobbyist Registrar has revoked SM18869 pursuant to § 140-36B; and requests Mr. Besner to attend a training session provided by the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar.

The Lobbyist Registrar has also found that Jeremy Bailey of Citygreen Urban Landscape Solutions (“Citygreen”), Mr. Besner’s client in SM18869, breached the Lobbying By law by communicating with public office holders about his company’s soil cell products when he was not registered as a lobbyist and by communicating about a procurement process when this was not permitted. This was Mr. Bailey’s first contact with the City’s lobbyist registry. He co-operated fully with this inquiry and attended an Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (OLR) training session on the Lobbying By law. In the interest of transparency, the Lobbyist Registrar has permitted Mr. Bailey to register and report all of his lobbying activities on behalf of Citygreen in SM19868.

The Registrar refers this report to the Director, Purchasing and Materials Management Division (“PMMD”) for information.
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 City Council on investigations and inquiries conducted by her. If the Registrar makes a report to City Council on an inquiry, the Registrar may disclose in the report such matters as in the Registrar’s opinion are necessary for the purposes of the report; and City Council shall ensure that reports received from the Registrar are made available to the public.

CONTACT
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SIGNATURE

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Linda L. Gehrke, Lobbyist Registrar

ATTACHMENTS
Report to Council on an Inquiry into Lobbying about Tender Call Nos. 67-2013 and 152-2013