

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM52.8	ACTION			Ward:All
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Requirement to Register with the Lobbyist Registrar`s Office - by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly, seconded by Councillor John Parker

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly, seconded by Councillor John Parker, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Lobbyist Registrar to report back to City Council by the July 8 and 9, 2014 Council meeting, on how to implement the following amendments to the Lobbying Chapter of the Municipal Code:
 - a. Non-profit organizations, unions and all community organizations designed to target specific City-wide issues resulting in financial impacts, who are lobbying on issues other than their own funding process, should not be exempt from registering with the Lobbyist Registry; and
 - b. All grass roots campaigns, regardless of who started them, should be required to follow the rules of the Lobbyist Registry and should be required to register.

Summary

In 2008, the Lobbyist Registrar recommended that the non-profit community services sector be exempted from registering.

Up until that time, Section 140-4 of the Toronto Municipal Code required non-for-profit community services to register only when they wish to lobby regarding applications for grants, awards or other financial benefits, or when they hired a consultant to lobby for them.

The exemption however is now being used beyond its original intent. The now overwhelming campaigns led by non-profit organizations that pressure elected officials are hidden from the public as they are not recorded in the Lobbyist Register. Similar campaigns are run by other organizations, including unions, without the need to register.

Given this, there is a serious need to amend the current City of Toronto Lobbying Chapter.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.8)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM52.8