

MM52.8.4

Leaside Property Owners Association Incorporated

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June 9 2014

Marilyn Toft
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
By email: clerk@toronto.ca

RE: MM52.8 Requirement to Register with the Lobbyist Registrar's Office

Dear Deputy Mayor Kelly and Members of Council

This is to indicate our concern about the above Council Motion to make non-profit community groups register as lobbyists.

Not for profit groups like residents' associations have heretofore been excluded from the requirement to register as lobbyist on the basis that they are non-profit, that they are comprised entirely of volunteers, and their *raison d'etre* is the interest of the public. There can be no perception of undue influence or possible material benefit if such organizations meet with politicians, as in essence it is simply a meeting of residents with their elected representative. For-profit organizations, corporations and other entities lobby the City in order to bring about changes that specifically benefit them monetarily.

The general impact if resident associations are required to register as a lobbyist would be to discourage access and communication between residents and politicians. The specific consequences (other than additional paperwork) are unclear. For example, could a politician refuse to meet with the resident association except formally, at his/her office, because we are a "lobbyist"?

Therefore we recommend that resident associations should remain excluded from the requirement to register as a lobbyist and the Motion should be rejected by Council.

Sincerely,

Geoff Kettel for

Geoff Kettel and Carol Burtin-Fripp
Co-Presidents
c.c. FoNTRA, CORRA