



**LOBBYIST REGISTRAR'S
REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Report on an Inquiry into Contributions by Lobbyists to
a Fundraiser for a Member of Council**

Date:	June 26, 2015
To:	City Council
From:	Lobbyist Registrar
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Lobbyist Registrar conducted an inquiry into contributions made by lobbyists to a fundraising event held for the benefit of a member of Council on May 22, 2013. The Lobbyist Registrar conducted this inquiry to determine whether lobbyists contributed to the fundraiser in breach of the Lobbying By-law. In this report, the Lobbyist Registrar finds that four lobbyists breached §§ 140-42A and 140-45B of the Lobbying By-law, which provide:

Section 140-42

- A. Lobbyists shall not undertake to lobby in a form or manner that includes offering, providing or bestowing entertainment, gifts, meals, trips or favours of any kind.*

Section 140-45

- B. Lobbyists shall not place public office holders in a conflict of interest or in breach of the public office holders' codes of conduct or standards of behaviour.*

The Registrar has advised the lobbyists not to lobby the councillor for whose benefit the contributions were made, in order to prevent placing the councillor* in a further conflict of interest, and has requested them to attend training in the Lobbying By-law provided by the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (OLR).

This report is made to Council as it is necessary in the public interest to do so. Contributions by lobbyists to the fundraiser* were serious breaches of the Lobbying By-law, even though they were not intended and were induced by the letter of invitation that was sent to them. This type of breach goes to the foundation of the integrity of City government decision-making. Transparency is required to restore public trust in City government. The public and public office holders have the right to know what happened and how this situation has been addressed.

Consequent to Council's request that independent advice be obtained on referral of the Integrity Commissioner's report regarding this matter to the police, the Registrar shall provide a copy of this report to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

***Note:** In this report, "fundraiser" refers to the fundraising event held on May 22, 2013 for the benefit of a member of Council; "councillor" refers to the member of Council for whose benefit the fundraiser was held; and "event organizer" refers to the company that organized and held the fundraiser, including issuing invoices and receiving cheques from the contributors named in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

The *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 169 and Toronto Municipal Code, § 3-7B, provide that the Lobbyist Registrar may report to City Council on inquiries conducted by her, and in the report may disclose such matters as in the Registrar's opinion are necessary for the purposes of the report.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Linda L. Gehrke
Lobbyist Registrar

ATTACHMENT

Report to Council on an Inquiry into Contributions by Registered Lobbyists to a Fundraiser for a Member of Council