

From: [Todd Hofley](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Cc: [Councillor Layton](#); [Councillor Perks](#)
Subject: Community groups vs lobbyists...
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 1:23:59 PM

EX13.2.5

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Board of Directors and membership of the Liberty Village Residents' Association - the largest residents' association in Canada. We are a fully legal, **not-for-profit**, with a board of directors of 18 and a membership of over 6000 residents in downtown west Toronto.

We strongly object to any sort of equivalency being made between the lobbyist registry at city hall and community organizations. In our incorporation documents, it is required that we only represent the best interests of our community and that there is zero personal gain for anyone from the association - either individually and directly - or indirectly. This is in stark contrast to the job of a lobbyist for any particular for-profit endeavour and the aims of said lobbying - the entire point of which is to generate more profit for that particular industry.

The City of Toronto and its councillors are improving their community outreach and as these are all volunteer run organizations, any additional cost and impediment to our active engagement with the city not only disenfranchises citizens, but makes lobbyists all the more powerful because they have the money to actually afford this kind of representation. A perfect parallel example of this is going to the OMB and how developers have deep pockets for lawyers and representation and community resistance does not - creating a massively unequal playing field for all concerned. Additionally, the added optics of community groups being in any way equivalent to a lobbyist completely misrepresents the type of engagement that is involved when simply trying to improve our parks, the safety of our streets or getting to know our neighbours.

We would like to strongly encourage the city to reject any amendment that would change this status quo as it would be an attack on the fundamentally important engagement and dialogue between the city, councillors and their communities.

Sincerely,

Todd Hofley
President
Liberty Village Residents' Association