

From: [Vicki Trottier](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: EX13.2 -- Amendments re Lobbying
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 4:45:36 PM

EX13.2.7

I am writing to express my concern around this proposed amendment.

As the president of the Fort York Neighbourhood Association, I greatly value the ability to regularly communicate with our councillor, Mike Layton, and his staff. They regularly attend our association meetings which allows both the councillor and his staff to stay abreast of neighbourhood issues and concerns and to keep the association up-to-date with happenings and events so that we, as an association, can better communicate with the residents in our neighbourhood.

Clear and open communication between residents and their councillors is essential. We should not have to register as lobbyists in order to contact our councillor. We are not lobbyists, we are community groups. The work we do, as volunteers, is to foster communication and community input, and to make our neighbourhoods safe and healthy places to live. We are not lobbying for special interest groups or for private interests.

Adding a requirement that neighbourhood associations be registered as lobbyists adds an unnecessary level of bureaucracy to what should be open and accessible channels of communication with our councillor. It would impede both the work that we do as well as the work that councillors do.

I know that I am not alone in saying that neighbourhood associations greatly appreciate the open and important lines of communication we have established with Councillor Layton and his staff, and adding the requirement to register as lobbyists would negatively impact this relationship and the work that we do for the residents of Ward 19.

Sincerely

Vicki Trottier
President, Fort York Neighbourhood Association