



TORONTO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

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April 29th, 2016

Toronto City Councillors
City of Toronto
100 Queens Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Councillors:

Re: EX 13.2 – Follow-up Report on Amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 140, Lobbying (“Lobbying By-law”)

The Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association opposes, in principle, Part 2 of the Executive Committee Ex13.2 recommendation that:

2. City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the Lobbyist Registrar and the City Solicitor, to review the requirements for not-for-profits organizations and labour unions, and Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Police Service and their associations to register, and report to Executive Committee with amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 140, Lobbying as required.

Quite simply, employee representatives should not have to register as lobbyists to talk to their employers.

In the introduction of the by-law (December 2006) Chapter 140, Lobbying, the City Manager stated the following;

“Any communication by any person can constitute lobbying, but it is inappropriate to require every person to register. The Act allows the City to exempt certain people from the need to register. Several exemptions, consistent with those made in the federal and provincial registries, are proposed based on the following principles:

Principles

- Councillors, City staff, members of local boards and staff of local boards should not have to register to communicate with each other
- Participants in intergovernmental or international relations should not have to register to communicate with the City
- **Employee and labour groups representing employees of the city and local boards should not have to register on matters related to labour relations**
- Not-for-profit community and volunteer groups in most cases should not have to register to engage with the city”

Exemptions

The by-law exempts the following people from the need to register, when acting in their official capacity: (reference to employee and labour groups listed below)

- **Representatives of employee and labour groups representing employees of the city and local boards when communicating about labour relations matters such as collective bargaining, compensation, HR policies, employer-employee committees, work place issues, grievances, mediation and arbitration**

Further, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), RSO 1990 Chapter M 56, does not apply to:

1. Proceedings or anticipated proceedings before a court or other entity relating to labour relations or to the employment of a person by the institution
2. Negotiations or anticipated negotiations relating to labour relations or to the employment of a person by the institution between the institution and a person, bargaining agent or party to a proceeding or an anticipated proceeding
3. Meeting, consultations, discussions or communications about labour relations or employment-related matters in which the institution has an interest.

The Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association, as a representative of employees of the Toronto Fire Services opposes any suggestion that “representatives of employees and labour groups representing employees of the city” be required to register as lobbyists.

The exemption of “employee and labour groups representing employees of the city” was one of the principles that exemptions were based on.

Requiring us as a representative of employees of the Toronto Fire Services to register as a lobbyist to discuss matters of labour relations with Councillors would be a violation of the MFIPPA.

Respectfully, we request that you oppose Part 2 of EX13.2 on the May 3 & 4th City Council Agenda.

Should you have any questions and or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Ramaganano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Ramaganano

President, TPFPA

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