

# HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



Re: Item EX13.2

To City Council:

April 29, 2016.

Harbord Village Residents' Association wishes to register its strong opposition to even considering making representatives of residents' associations register as lobbyists.

We believe this initiative confuses lobbying for a client and being a direct conduit for neighbourhood—and voter-- concerns to elected councillors. There is a profound difference.

Unlike many not-for-profit groups, we have no particular cause, except to reflect the views of our neighbourhood and your voters to you, our councillors.

On HVRA, we see ourselves as facilitating communication between all residents in our catchment, from Bloor to College, Spadina to Bathurst. When someone calls, we do not ask whether they are members of our 'group'. They are residents and voters, and we respond to their concerns, and in many of those responses we reach out to our elected representatives.

Beyond that, our organization, like council itself, is democratic. On our board we have area representatives. We are guided by a constitution, its by-laws. We have fiscal accountability. We host public meetings, often in conjunction with our local councillor. Our board is subject to yearly review by a meeting that is widely advertised and open to the public. Our board can be voted out of office!

We believe any bureaucratic process that stands between voters, their organizations and their representatives on council undermines democracy.

With thanks for your consideration,

Yours truly,  
Sue Dexter  
Harbord Village Residents' Association