



April 23, 2016

Marilyn Toft, Manager Council Secretariat Support
City Clerk's Office
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: EX13.2 Follow-up Report on Amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 140, Lobbying ("Lobbying By-law")

Dear Ms. Toft,

This letter is to indicate that the executive committees of the 5 Community Associations located in Ward 43 and Ward 44 are strongly opposed to any amendment of the City of Toronto's Lobbying By-law that would require community associations to register as lobbyists under the City of Toronto Lobbying By-law. Our organizations have long-served the following neighborhoods:

- Guildwood, Ward 43, since 1958
- Centennial, Ward 44, since 1950
- Coronation, Ward 43/44, since 2005
- Highland Creek, Ward 44, since 1976
- West Rouge, Ward 44, since 1983

As long standing community associations with a strong history of volunteerism dedicated to making our neighbourhoods a better place to live, we are in disbelief that City Council is considering such an amendment to the lobbying by-law. We are even more disappointed in the absolute lack of communication and consultation with our associations that has taken place in regards to the proposed amendments.

Volunteer Community Associations across the City of Toronto play a vital role in delivering community activities and programs to our citizens and by organizing and sponsoring grass roots events. We do this in an ever increasing regulatory environment. This environment has taken its toll on our existing volunteers by increasing the amount of time, energy and resources they must overcome in delivering these services to our neighbourhoods and it also fundamentally discourages new volunteers from becoming involved.

In the past few years the City of Toronto has removed blanket liability insurance protection for its community volunteer associations, increased permit requirements and permit fees for the use of our parks and facilities. All of these obstacles and increases in costs have sent the absolutely wrong message to the volunteer community, they have had a negative impact on our volunteers and our neighbourhoods.

Further regulating and restricting access that community groups have to our ward Councillors and other city officials by amending the Lobbyist By-law treating volunteer community groups in the same way as private lobbyists is absolutely the wrong approach for the City of Toronto. Our associations maintain open dialogue with our elected Councillors and we strive to maintain collaborative relationships to meet



our common goal of bettering our community. We respectfully request that instead of throwing up more road blocks and increasing red tape and costs for volunteers that diminish the value of our contribution, City Council expend their energy seeking ways to support their volunteer network and enabling us to increase and improve our efforts as key partners in delivering valued services to our citizens.

Sincerely,

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cc: Mayor John Tory
 Councillor Paul Ainslie, Ward 43
 Councillor Ron Moeser, Ward 44