

**From:** [Bill Sinclair](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Council Agenda EX13.2.  
**Date:** Sunday, May 1, 2016 1:11:51 PM

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Attention City Clerk,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and thousands of program participants, I am sharing the concerns of St. Stephen's Community House about a recommendation in EX13.2. that would require not-for-profits, including charities, to register and report as lobbyists:

*"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".*

St. Stephen's Community House is a charitable, non-profit, neighbourhood service in west downtown Toronto serving 21,000 residents each year including our most vulnerable neighbours: young families, children, isolated seniors, at-risk youth, newcomers to Canada, people who are homeless or unemployed, and people living with disabilities or HIV. We have been active in helping residents to be socially and civically engaged in community life including vital municipal initiatives such as the recent poverty reduction strategy and neighbourhood redevelopment.

It is our charitable function and mandate approved by the Government of Canada to communicate freely with elected officials and municipal employees in the public good. There is a big and clear difference between advocating for a more equitable, caring, just and inclusive society, and lobbying for private corporate financial interests. The lobbying registry must not be inappropriately used to interfere with the charitable mandates and neighbourhood-building activities of non-profit and voluntary sector community groups in Toronto. We ask you not to change the current requirements of the Municipal Code and continue to work in open and close partnership with the non-profit sector.

Thank you.

**Bill Sinclair, Executive Director**

**St. Stephen's Community House**

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*We provide innovative and essential social services that improve the lives of 25,000 vulnerable men, women, youth and children in the city each year. Your support makes all the difference. Please [donate](#) today.*

