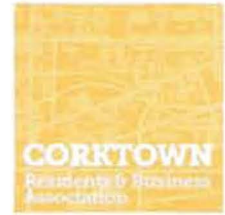


Corktown Residents & Business Association
351 Queen Street East, P.O Box 82522
Toronto, ON M5A 1T8



Council
City of Toronto

May 1, 2016

Mayor Tory and members of Council,

Re: City Council Item EX13.2 Amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 140, Lobbying

I am the President of the Corktown Residents & Business Association (CRBA) proudly participating in the rejuvenation of Toronto's "lower east side". In doing our work on behalf of the residents of Corktown, we have frequent contact with our Councillor's office (Ward 28) and we believe we have developed a good working relationship wherein information flows well both ways between us. This scenario is reflected across this great City between many neighbourhood associations and their respective Councillors. It is a system which has worked for decades now.

Item 13.2 before Council on May 3 contains a recommendation from Executive Committee which states "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."

The mere suggestion that neighbourhood groups might be lumped in with lobbyists who are paid to lobby on behalf of for profit, and indeed some not-for-profit groups, is an insult to the hard work being performed by both neighbourhood groups and Councillors across the City. That it is being contemplated is a slight to the notion of democracy and a flagrant disregard for the voters in this City to whom Council reports.

The Federal Government has similar lobbyist provisions to Toronto's and it is quite clear that constituency matters are exempt from the lobbyist rules.

We totally understand and support the regulation of paid lobbyists in their contact with Councillors representing for-profit businesses and landowners; these are safeguards protecting the rights of the residents and landowners of the City presumably in the best interests of all. That the City would contemplate protecting residents from themselves is patently nonsense.

We ask that you reject the notion at the May 3 meeting before the movement to implement such draconian measures grows legs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michele Cummings", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Michele Cummings
President, CRBA
president@corktown.ca

cc: CRBA Board
Councillor Pam McConnell