

To Toronto City Council

May 2, 2016.

It has recently been brought to our attention that the proposed new lobbying registration rules would or could require representatives of Resident's Associations to register as lobbyists. On behalf of the members and Board of the Garden District Resident's Association (GDRA), I would like to register our strong disapproval of such a policy change.

The GDRA is bordered by Gerrard Street to the North (but including Allan Gardens), Yonge Street to the West, Sherbourne Street to the East and Queen Street to the South. Like other Resident's Associations we are governed by a democratically approved constitution and a member elected Board.

Members of our association are residents, students, and non-voting members such as employers and employees. The GDRA promotes volunteering and measures that enhance safety, economic viability and the general quality of life for all of those within our neighbourhood.

By their very nature, Resident's Associations are an important link between our municipally elected representatives and the communities they serve. As singular points of focus for residents within a community, our associations are valuable resources for local councilors to communicate and work with their constituents and vice-versa. In our opinion this cannot meet any realistic definition of lobbying.

Yours sincerely;

William James Colvin

President
Garden District Resident's Association

cc. Ms. Ulli Watkiss - City Clerk