

**From:** [TorontoHIVAIDSNetwork](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Cc:** [Murray Jose-Boerbridge](#); "[Keith Hambly \(khambly@fifehouse.org\)](#)"; [Joan Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** report EX13.2 Lobbyist Registry - message for city council  
**Date:** Monday, May 2, 2016 4:42:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear city clerk; Please circulate this to Mayor Tory and the members of Toronto City Council.

Dear Mayor John Tory and the members of City Council:

We have become aware of a motion from the Executive Committee at this week's Council meeting that would be a big first step toward requiring non-profit community groups to register as lobbyists. As a network of agencies and programs serving people with HIV and communities affected by HIV, we are very concerned about the impact of this direction. Including non-profits would impose undue hardship on agencies whose purpose is to serve and work with residents of Toronto. It would create a barrier between community agencies, residents and their Councillors and disrupt access to civic engagement. This is counter-productive to the efforts the City has made to involve residents and the agencies who provide important services and support for community engagement. In reviewing the Lobbyist by-law it raises a lot of concerns and questions. Communicating with Councillors and City staff on issues, such as housing, homelessness prevention and income, for example, would become very complicated for agency program staff. It could also be confusing and complex when agencies involve community members in discussions with City staff or Councillors. These rules would restrict charities and non-profits even though they are acting for community benefit - something Council is hopefully seeking to maximize, rather than personal gain, something Council is supposed to regulate.

When the Lobbyist Registry was introduced, City Council made a smart decision to exempt non-profits. There's no reason to consider reversing this decision now.

We ask for your leadership and support for the work of non-profits and civic engagements by speaking against and voting against the motion EX13.2.

With appreciation for your consideration on this issue.

Murray Jose-Boerbridge (Toronto People With AIDS Foundation) and Keith Hambly (Fife House)  
Co-chairs, Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN)  
and

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