



**Confederation of Resident & Ratepayer  
Associations in Toronto**

Tuesday May 3rd, 2016

Toronto City Council  
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5V 2N2

Attention: Ms. Marilyn Toft  
Email: [clerk@toronto.ca](mailto:clerk@toronto.ca)

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of Council

EX13.2: Follow-up Report on Amendments to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 140, Lobbying (Lobbying By-law) City Council Consideration on May 3, 2016
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CORRA, the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations in Toronto, an independent volunteer organization, is writing concerned with a report request made of the City Manager's office to review the requirements for not-for-profit organizations with respect to the Lobbyist Registrar.

**CORRA requests that Members of Council who believe in local democracy ensure that resident and ratepayer associations and their groups be recognized as invaluable complementary counterparts to the governance of this City and therefore cannot be classified or seen as lobbyists.**

In making this request, CORRA also asks:

- That the City restore the list of Resident and Ratepayer Associations to be maintained by the City Clerk as part of Civic Engagement at the City-wide level.
- That the City use this list to ensure that the registered groups receive the same Notices and necessary information at the same time to allow all interested groups to engage meaningfully at the start of the decision-making process.

In addition, CORRA asks the City to review and examine, from the public's perspective, and as part of this exercise:

1. The delegation of Council authority / powers to committees or a designated person to ensure by-laws are in place outlining the extent of such authority, the limits to that authority (including time limit) and at what point do issues are "bumped back up" for Council decision;
2. The delegation of the administrative functions of Council's decision making process to ensure these functions are fully understood by all and are procedurally fair based on the complexity of the decision; and

3. The consultation processes, where authorities have been granted by legislation, be enacted by the necessary by-laws to allow a consistent approach across similar or like situations when the City is required to make decisions.

What this boils down to is a need to clarify the City's governance model, the communication and decision making processes expected of Council, demanded by the people of this City, to allow all who wish to participate to be able to engage with clarity as it is their right.

**In summary**, CORRA asks members of Council:

- to ensure resident and ratepayer groups BE EXCLUDED from the Lobbyist Registrar; and
- to restore the list recognizing residents and ratepayers groups as vital to local democracy and civic engagement.

And CORRA encourages any Councillor to rise to the floor and debate the big picture – involving (1) the delegation of Council decision making, (2) the delegation of administrative functions, and (3) the consultation processes to make clear what is needed of the Lobbyist Registrar.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Denny, Chair  
Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations in Toronto  
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