

Office of Lobbyist Registrar – 2018-2027 Capital Budget and Plan

Date: November 28, 2017
To: Budget Committee
From: Lobbyist Registrar
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Budget Committee's recommendation for City Council to approve the Office of Lobbyist Registrar's 2018-2027 Capital Budget and Plan. This 10-Year Capital Budget and Plan enables the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (OLR) to continue to provide and maintain an accessible, publicly available online lobbyist registry as required by the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 165. The Capital Budget and Plan, which totals \$0.7 million, is 100% for the Lobbyist Registry State of Good Repair Project (SOGR).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. Budget Committee recommend to Executive Committee that City Council approve the 2018-2027 Capital Budget and Plan for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar of \$0.7 million.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of adopting the recommendation in this report will be the inclusion of \$0.7 million in the City of Toronto's 2018-2027 10-year Capital Budget and Plan, fully funded from debt.

DECISION HISTORY

In accordance with the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code, the Lobbyist Registrar, as one of the City's four Accountability Officers, is independent and accountable to City Council. Section 3-10C requires each Accountability Officer to submit an annual budget request to the Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to City Council. Therefore, this report is submitted directly to Budget Committee for consideration and recommendation to City Council. (Reference: City of Toronto Act, 2006, s. 168(1); Chapter 3 of Toronto Municipal Code, s. 3-10C)

City Council approved the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar's Capital Budget and Plan of \$1.201 million over the period from 2017 to 2026 for Lobbyist Registry State of Good Repair (SOGR) on February 15-16, 2017 ([EX22.2 "2017 Capital and Operating Budgets", Item 2c](#)).

COMMENTS

The main objective of the 10-Year Capital Plan is to provide funding for State of Good Repair (SOGR) of the Lobbyist Registry. The 10-Year Capital Plan, which totals \$0.7 million, is fully funded by debt. There is no State of Good Repair backlog.

The Lobbyist Registrar is responsible under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (COTA) and the Lobbying By-law (Chapter 140, Toronto Municipal Code) for promoting and enhancing the transparency, accountability and integrity of City government decision-making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists' conduct.

The COTA, s. 165 requires the City of Toronto to maintain a lobbyist registry, which is available to the public. The Lobbying By-law (the By-law) requires lobbyists to register before lobbying and to report their lobbying activities within three business days after they occur. The Office of the Lobbyist Registrar maintains an online, publicly available lobbyist registry, which meets the statutory requirement and enables lobbyists to meet their obligations under the By-law to register and report their lobbying activities.

The Lobbyist Registrar is responsible for promoting and enhancing the transparency and integrity of City government decision making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists' conduct. The *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, s. 165 requires the City of Toronto to maintain a lobbyist registry which is available to the public.

The Lobbyist Registry System has three major purposes:

- Lobbyists use the system to document their interactions with City Officials;
- The information is available publicly through the OLR's website and is searchable; and

- The information is contained in an internal operating system (IOS) which is reviewed and managed by OLR staff.

Lobbyist Registry SOGR

State of Good Repair of the Lobbyist Registry is required to enable the registry to continue to function, comply with statutory obligations, meet requirements of users, as well as conform to City and industry technological standards. An updated search capacity will ensure that the public can access the information in the registry. To reflect the current technology prevalence of mobile device usage replacing office computers, a mobile interface is critical to ensure that the transparency and accuracy of the registry is maintained and prevent delays in registration and reporting. In addition, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires that all applications meet the WCAG 2.0 AA accessibility standard by 2021. This project will ensure that the Lobbyist Registry application meets this requirement.

Replacement of the system is in progress with project completion expected in December 2017.

The Lobbyist Registry will need to be refreshed in 2023 to enable the registry to continue to function, comply with statutory obligations, meet requirements of users, and conform to the City and industry technology standards. This project will have a project cost of \$0.700 million and will start in 2023.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2018-2027 Capital Plan – Accountability Officers Budget Request Overview