

## **Office of the Lobbyist Registrar – 2019 Operating Budget Request and 2019-2028 Capital Budget and Plan**

**Date:** January 18, 2019  
**To:** Budget Committee  
**From:** Lobbyist Registrar  
**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report seeks Budget Committee's recommendation for City Council to approve the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar's 2019 Operating Budget Request of \$1.490 million gross and net and its 2019-2028 Capital Budget and Plan.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Lobbyist Registrar's 2019 Operating Budget Request of \$1.490 million gross and net and associated staff complement of 10.3 positions;
2. City Council approve the Capital Budget for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar with 2019 cash flow of \$0.215 million; and
3. City Council approve the 2020-2028 Capital Plan for the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar with a total project estimate of \$0.950 million, comprising of \$0.350 million for 2024, \$0.350 million for 2025, and \$0.250 million for 2026.
4. City Council approve 0.65 net new temporary capital position for the delivery of 2019 capital project and that the duration for each temporary position not exceed the life and funding of its projects/subprojects.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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The financial impact of adopting the recommendation in this report will be the inclusion of:

1. the annual budget of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar at \$1.490 million gross and net in the City of Toronto's 2019 Approved Operating Budget; and
2. \$1.165 million in the City of Toronto's 2019-2028 10-year Capital Budget and Plan, fully funded from debt.

## DECISION HISTORY

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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. Each Accountability Officer is required 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 \$0.7 million over the period from 2018 to 2027 for Lobbyist Registry State of Good Repair (SOGR) on February 12, 2018 ([EX31.2 "2018 Capital and Operating Budgets", Item 2c](#)).

## COMMENTS

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### **Mandate of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (OLR)**

The OLR promotes and enhances the transparency and integrity of City government decision-making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists' conduct. The OLR is responsible for: oversight of the lobbyist registration system, provision advising on Chapter 140, Lobbying, of the Toronto Municipal Code, conducting inquiries and investigations and enforcing compliance with Chapter 140, Lobbying (the By-law), and advising City Council on lobbying matters.

The OLR is one of the four independent Accountability Offices appointed by and reporting to Toronto City Council with responsibilities, powers and duties as set out in the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (COTA). The accountability provisions in COTA are vital to the effectiveness of the City's accountability framework and to strengthen public trust in government. COTA requires the City to maintain a Lobbyist Registry (Registry) and empowers the City to appoint a Registrar.

## Duties of the Lobbyist Registrar

The Lobbyist Registrar is required by the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code to execute the following duties:

1. The independent carriage of the duties and responsibilities of the office as set out in Part V of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 3, Accountability Officers;
2. Oversight of the lobbyist registration system and the By-law, which includes interpretation and application of the By-law;
3. Review and assessment of registrations to guarantee compliance with the By-law;
4. Decision-making with respect to the refusal, acceptance, suspension or revocation of a registration;
5. Investigation of complaints regarding alleged breaches of the By-law, and where required in the public interest, the carriage of enforcement proceedings which may include the referral for prosecution of matters pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Act*;
6. Provision of outreach and training to all stakeholders on the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct and roles and responsibilities under the By-law;
7. Publication and presentation of an annual report to City Council on the activities of the OLR in the discharge of its duties;
8. Provision of information to the public about the City's lobbying control framework and how to access the Registry on the City's website;
9. Execution of the OLR's functions within a framework that fosters independence, confidentiality and public trust; and
10. Identification of matters that crossover with the mandates and processes of other Accountability Offices and facilitating coordination, when required in the public interest.

## **CONTACT**

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Cristina De Caprio, Lobbyist Registrar, [Cristina.DeCaprio@toronto.ca](mailto:Cristina.DeCaprio@toronto.ca), 416-338-5865

## **SIGNATURE**

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Cristina De Caprio  
Lobbyist Registrar

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: 2019 Budget Notes – Office of the Lobbyist Registrar