

Toronto Lobbyist Registrar – 2020 Operating Budget Request and 2020-2029 Capital Budget and Plan

Date: December 9, 2019
To: Budget Committee
From: Lobbyist Registrar
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Budget Committee's recommendation for City Council to approve the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar's 2020 Operating Budget Request of \$1.451 million gross and net and its 2020-2029 Capital Budget and Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lobbyist Registrar recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Lobbyist Registrar's 2019 Operating Budget Request of \$1.451 million gross and net;
2. City Council approve the 2020 staff complement for the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar of 10.3 positions;
3. City Council approve the 2020 Capital Budget for the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar with cash flows and future year commitments totaling \$0.1 million as detailed by project in appendix 5; and
4. City Council approve the 2021-2029 Capital Plan for the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar totalling \$1.0 million in project estimates as detailed by project in Appendix 5b.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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 \$1.451 million gross and net in the City of Toronto's 2020 Approved Operating Budget; and
2. \$1.1 million in the City of Toronto's 2020-2029 10-year Capital Budget and Plan, fully funded from debt and inclusive of \$0.1 million carried forward from 2019.

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. 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)

COMMENTS

Mandate of the Toronto Lobbyist Registrar (TLR)

The TLR promotes and enhances the transparency and integrity of City government decision-making through public disclosure of lobbying activities and regulation of lobbyists' conduct. The TLR 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 TLR 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 TLR 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 TLR'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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SIGNATURE

Cristina De Caprio
Lobbyist Registrar

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 2020 Budget Notes – Toronto Lobbyist Registrar