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**Joint Interpretation Bulletin****Lobbying and Donations to  
Council Member-Organized  
Community Events**

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**Introduction**

This Bulletin is intended to assist members of Council in ensuring compliance with the [Council Member-Organized Community Events Policy](#) adopted by City Council in July 2008. This policy permits donations to Council Member-Organized Community Events that are held on a specific date or series of dates and cannot exceed \$10,000 annually (whether for a single event or multiple events).

**Prohibitions on Accepting Donations**

The policy prohibits a member of Council or a third party acting on behalf of the member from soliciting or accepting support in any form (in cash or in-kind) from those registered with the City as lobbyists or their clients or employers, or developers with any pending planning, conversion, demolition or sign variance application. For additional clarity, this includes a prohibition on donations from local outlets, branches or franchisees of an organization, association, corporation who is the client of a lobbyist, is a registered lobbyist or is a developer with pending planning, conversion, demolition or sign variance applications.

Before accepting any donation, the member of Council should confirm with the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar (416-338-5858 or [lobbyistregistrar@toronto.ca](mailto:lobbyistregistrar@toronto.ca)) whether or not the donor is registered in the Lobbyist Registry. If the sponsor or donor is registered in the Lobbyist Registry, the donation must be declined. A member's acceptance of donations or sponsorships from lobbyists or their clients or employers would contravene the member's obligations under the [Code of Conduct for Members of Council](#). In addition, donations or sponsorships by a lobbyist would contravene the lobbyist's obligations under the [Lobbyists' Code of Conduct](#).

**City Sponsored and Other Joint Events**

In the case of a City-sponsored joint event, a City Division may accept sponsorships from a lobbyist. Sponsorships and donations by a lobbyist must comply with the Lobbyists' Code of Conduct and the [City's Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits](#). The City Division must make all of the arrangements with the lobbyist and receive the donation. Members of Council may participate in these events, however, they may not invite lobbyists to participate in City-sponsored joint events.

In the case of an outside group event in which a member of Council is invited to participate, again, a lobbyist may donate to the outside group in order to sponsor the event. Members of Council cannot receive any funds from lobbyists or issue invitations to lobbyists to sponsor the event.



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**Reporting Requirements**

Members of Council must report to the Director, Council and Support Services, on the source, details and value of all donations for community events using the [Donor Declaration Form](#). If the amount of the donation is more than \$500 the report must be provided before the event takes place.

**Resources**

Should you have any questions about Donations to Council Member-Organized Community Events, please contact us anytime. Ideally, potential issues and concerns can be identified and addressed in advance.

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