

Report to Council



Date: January 13, 2025
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Amendments to Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry
Department: City Clerk

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive, for information, the report from the Office of the City Clerk dated January 13, 2025, regarding amendments to Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry;

AND THAT Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry be amended as set out in the report from the Office of the City Clerk dated January 13, 2025.

Purpose:

To approve amendments to Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry.

Background:

On December 2, 2024, staff delivered a report to Council concerning a review of Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry. Drawing on the experience staff have gained administering the Lobbyist Registry in its first year, the report set out a brief list of recommended amendments to improve various aspects of the Policy. Council passed a resolution directing staff to bring forward an amended draft of the Policy for further consideration.

Previous Council Resolution

| Resolution | Date |
|--|------------------|
| THAT Council receive, for information, the report from the Office of the City Clerk dated December 2, 2024, regarding a review of Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry; | December 2, 2024 |
| AND THAT Council direct staff to bring forward for Council consideration amendments to Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry as set out in the report from the Office of the City Clerk dated December 2, 2024. | |

Discussion:

Following Council's direction, staff have prepared an amended draft Policy which implements the recommended amendments summarized below. The purpose of these amendments is to give the Policy an enhanced focus on paid lobbying and lobbying with a personal financial interest at stake, while also streamlining the registration process and promoting greater ease of compliance. Staff have taken the opportunity to make minor textual and formatting improvements to eliminate redundant language and achieve greater consistency with the current Council policy template.

Summary of proposed amendments

| Section | Current Policy: | Amended Policy: |
|----------------|--|--|
| Definitions | "Lobbyist" means an individual, whether paid or voluntary, who lobbies an elected official regarding a matter within Council's jurisdiction. The lobbyist may represent individual interests or represent an organization, whether employed by that organization or on behalf of a different organization. | "Lobbyist" means an individual who is paid to lobby on behalf of a business or organization or who lobbies regarding a matter in which the individual has a direct or indirect financial interest. |
| 1 (c) | Each registration is considered active for six months, after which a new registration must be filed for lobbying activities. | Each registration is considered active for one year, after which a new registration must be filed for lobbying activities. |
| Various | N/A | Minor textual and formatting improvements. |

Conclusion:

The proposed amendments will strengthen the Policy's focus on its fundamental purpose of promoting transparency and accountability, while simplifying its administrative aspects. Staff will continue to promote compliance with the Policy via education and awareness-raising efforts.

Considerations applicable to this report:

Existing Policy: [Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry](#)

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Consultation and Engagement:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

M. Jud, Deputy City Clerk

Approved for inclusion: L. Bentley, City Clerk

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Draft Council Policy No. 390 – Lobbyist Registry