



CITY OF BOSTON
Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 2:00 PM
Virtual Meeting held remotely via Google Meet
Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair; Vivien Li, City Clerk Maureen Feeney and Christine O'Donnell representing City Council President Matt O'Malley

Others Present: Assistant City Clerk Alex Geourtas, Clerk to the Commission and Timothy Condon from the city's IT Analytics Team.

Not Present: Linda Champion

Call to order at 2:11 PM

Sammy Nabulsi, Chair of the Commission, opened the virtual meeting by welcoming everyone.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to accept the April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes and seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Further Review of Draft Online Form for Lobbying Complaints

The Commission welcomed Timothy Condon from the city's IT Analytics Team to review the updated Lobbying complaint form. With input from the previous Commission meeting, the Analytics Team created a Knack online form and Timothy demonstrated how the form would work and what information would be requested via the form. The Knack form is more conducive to the needs of the Commission with secure access options and uploading documents utilizing any email address.

Vivien Li stated that no one can file an anonymous complaint based on Lobbying regulations and review by City Clerk would determine next steps in the complaint process.

From a security prospective, the Knack Form provides for secure access to Commission members via email addresses and passwords. The same process would apply for the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk. The Analytics Team would make all the arrangements for access.

Commission agreed that the Knack Form meets the needs for Lobbying Complaints and Commission members wanted to further review the new form by June 1, 2021 to see if there are any additional edits and/or questions.

City Clerk Report and Update

City Clerk Maureen Feeney presented to the Commission a statistical update on Lobbying registration and quarterly reporting as follows:

2021 – Registrations – 278

2020 – Registrations – 150

2020 - Reports filed – 350

IPS application has limitations that hamper registration and reporting data and we will continue to work with IT on creating internal statistical reports. Lobbyist reports are being related to Client reports also.

Concerns remain about not-for-profit organizations applying for fee waivers and the process to review requests. Discussion ensued among Commission members and Sammy Nabulsi stated that the Lobbying Regulations describe the process to file a fee waiver. The City Clerk's Office will follow those regulations and establish certain dates for filing fee waivers. Possibly establish a 30 day fee waiver registration period?

City Clerk Maureen Feeney discussed the Knack Form as it provides a listing of complaints filed, complaints referred and complaints archived. If there are incomplete Lobbying complaints filed, the City Clerk can make a determination without referring complaints to Commission.

Vivien Li commented that during 2020, lobbying activities were significantly reduced due to the pandemic. Vivien suggested that a blueprint of lobbying activities be prepared to present to the new Mayoral Administration later in 2021 after the certification of the city election results.

Sammy Nabulsi suggested that a letter be sent to 2020 registrants relative to 2021 lobbying registration and reporting requirements. A letter was suggested instead of an email.

Public Education on Lobbying and Regulations

Sammy Nabulsi suggested that the city, with cooperation from the Commission, initiate a citywide effort for all city employees regarding Lobbying and Regulations. This would be similar to the city's yearly efforts with Campaign Election Updates sent to all city employees from the Law Department. Sammy Nabulsi will reach out to Dion Irish, the city's Chief of Operations in Mayor Janey's Office to coordinate our efforts regarding a citywide informational effort for city employees.

For the June Meeting

- *Letter to prior year registrants, Lobbyists and Entities
- *Letter to Lobbyists who did not send in reports
- *Update on Meeting with Dion Irish
- *Law Department Update
- *Online Lobbying Complaint Form

Discussion ensued relative to Commission Meetings during the summer months and it was agreed by all present that there will be no meeting in August 2021. City's website will be updated to reflect change in meeting schedule.

Motion to adjourn meeting was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Maureen Feeney. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

Minutes approved by the Commission at its meeting of June 17, 2021