



CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes Thursday, April 21, 2022, 2:00 PM In-Person Meeting at the Piemonte Room on the 5th Floor of Boston City Hall

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, Linda Champion, Vivien Li and Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas

Meeting called to order at 2:03 PM

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, opened the first in-person Commission meeting in two years and welcomed all present.

Commission members reviewed the minutes from the March 17, 2022 meeting and a Motion was offered by Vivien Li to amend the minutes by changing the adjournment time from 4 PM to 3 PM. Motion was seconded by Linda Champion. All in favor.

Motion was offered by Linda Champion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting as amended; seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Update on Communications to City Employees

Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, updated Commission members on meeting with Dion Irish, Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas and Katherine Jones from the city's Law Department. Response was quite positive and we are waiting for Law Department clearance. Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas will follow up with Dion Irish and Katherine Jones as to next steps. Dion Irish was supportive of including a Lobbying Policy Compliance segment to the Annual Compliance Requirements for city employees, Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas will follow up with Human Resources to begin the process of adding this to the yearly city compliance items.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas reported that the new online report filing was successful with minimal problems. The upgrade seemed to be well received and compliance was much better this time around as indicated in the new reporting summary given to Commission members.

The new online reporting allows staff to track reports with CCL numbers and all accounts will be automatically updated once reports have been filed online. The same process will apply to the Municipal Data Set as the information will automatically upload into the data set for public access.

Phone calls to the City Clerk's Office were complimentary on the new online process and relatively fewer problem calls regarding filing of reports were received by staff. Prior to April 2022, the process was manual and the phone calls and emails were more constant with various issues in filing reports.

Status of Identifying Non-Compliant Registrants and Follow-up Actions

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas provided a report on Lobbyists, Entities and Clients that have not filed their reports in past quarters. This report covered the quarters prior to the start of the online filing of reports. Prior to the online reporting process, staff need to manually research each account to determine who has not filed reports in the past. This work is tedious and takes a great deal of time to research, but the report gives a snapshot of who is non-compliant.

Lobbying staff will continue to work on the non-compliant list researching duplicate entries, cleaning up the database and further reviewing information filed by Lobbyists, Entities and Clients. The Commission discussed the importance of knowing delinquencies so that the Commission can discuss potential action.

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas provided the Reporting Compliance Summary for Q1 2022 as follows:

Lobbyists: 229 online reports submitted; 26 non-compliant as of April 21, 2022

Entities: 56 online reports submitted; 14 non-compliant as of April 21, 2022

Clients: 109 online reports submitted; 13 non-compliant as of April 21, 2022

Old/New Business

Update was provided by Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas as to the status of re-appointments of Commission members. The Mayor's Office is aware of the need to reappoint Commissioners as their terms are coterminous with the Mayor. The city ordinance is specific on the appointment terms and Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, has concerns on the current "holdover" status of Commission members as it may present an issue with the validity of the hearing process for violations of the Lobbying Ordinance.

Motion was offered by Linda Champion to adjourn meeting and seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.