



CITY OF BOSTON

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MEETING MINUTES

Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

MEETING DATE: *July 1, 2019*

MEETING LOCATION: *Boston City Hall, 5th Floor, Piemonte Room*

MEETING TIME: *10:00AM (start 10:08AM, end 12:00PM)*

SUBJECT: *Municipal Lobbying*

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Sammy Nabulsi, Chair; Vivien Li; Maureen Feeney, City Clerk; Andrea J. Campbell, City Council President; Stephanie Everett; Christine O'Donnell, Acting Clerk to the Commission*

Issues Discussed

Chairman Nabulsi convened the meeting and the Commission discussed frequently asked questions (“FAQs”) for the July 20th 2019 reporting period. Chairman Nabulsi explained that there is a lack of clarity regarding the date of lobbying activity that needs to be included in each reporting period. Chairman Nabulsi asked about the status of emailing the registered lobbyists concerning the reporting requirements and whether the information is on the City Clerk’s website. The Clerk explained that the Clerk’s Office will send reminders by email to the lobbyists concerning the reporting requirements and that the information will be on the website. The Commission reviewed the reporting guidelines and the filing dates. The Commission reviewed the forms for the quarterly statements and reporting requirements. The Clerk suggested that the cut-off date for the reporting period be the last day of the month and proposed that the Commission amend the cut-off date for the July 20, 2019 reporting period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019. The Chair moved to amend the July 20, 2019 reporting period to include activity from April 16, 2019 to June 30, 2019 and the Commission adopted the motion. Moving forward the reporting period will fall on the last day of the month. The Commission discussed access to FAQs.

The Commission discussed the non-profit fee waivers, not for profit entities, and exclusive representation. Chairman Nabulsi asked how not for profit status is determined. The Clerk explained that the entity provides a copy of their 501 (c) (3) and Articles of Organization. The Commission discussed whether the not for profit fee waiver extends to employees and if the waiver is granted to the entity does the waiver also extend to the lobbyist. The Commission discussed the waiver provision in the ordinance and the Clerk’s discretionary power. The Commission recognized that there is no threshold language in the ordinance regarding waivers or who qualifies for waivers. Commission members discussed the need for regulations to establish criteria and standards for waiver qualifications and determining exclusivity.

The Commission discussed attorneys and registration requirements. The Commission discussed the extent of the attorney exemption and the fact that the exemption is limited under the terms of the ordinance. The Commission discussed required activities such as meetings, site visits, and inspections and when such activities become lobbying activities. Commissioner Everett suggested making a list of issues that may need ordinance attention. The Commission discussed the timeline for regulations. Chairman Nabulsi stated that the Commission should check with the City’s Law Department regarding draft regulations. The Commission discussed that the City Clerk’s Office will set up a dedicated email for questions. The Commission will hold meetings on July 17th and July 31st. The motion to adjourn was adopted.

Minutes approved by the Commission at its meeting of July 17, 2019