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CITY OF BOSTON
Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 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 2:05 PM

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

Commission members reviewed the minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting and a Motion was offered by Vivien Li to amend the minutes on page 2 by changing “need” to “needed.” Motion was seconded by Linda Champion. All in favor.

Motion was offered by Linda Champion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting as amended; seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Update on Communications to City Employees

Commissioners reviewed the Email Blast on Lobbying that was sent to all city employees on April 28, 2022 and the City Clerk’s Office received positive feedback from employees about Lobbying. Linda Champion will look into next steps to create a Lobbying Webinar with the Urban League. They have a fully operational studio with students creating the content and video. This would be a great opportunity for the students to participate in such an endeavor. A recognition event could be planned to bring in students to City Hall to acknowledge their hard work. Also mentioned were WGBH and BNN as possibilities in creating the webinar.

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas will follow up with Human Resources to begin the process of adding Lobbying to the yearly city compliance items.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas provided an update to the Commission relative to Lobbyists, Entities and Clients that have not filed their online reports as of April 20, 2022.

Total Registered:

Lobbyists	253
Entities	70
Clients	121
TOTAL	444

Non-Compliant as of April 21, 2022

Lobbyists	10
Entities	9
Clients	4

Email was sent from the City Clerk’s Office to all who did not file their reports on April 21, 2022 and some have already responded to the email by filing their respective reports. The online process seems to be working well and less frustrating for all concerned.

Interim City Clerk Alex Geourntas will also review the online registration process to include a section on the Lobbying Regulations acknowledging that each registrant has read the regulations. IT staff will be contacted to initiate this process in time for the December registration period.

Lobbying staff will continue to work on the non-compliant list prior to the online filing of reports researching duplicate entries, cleaning up the database and further reviewing information filed by Lobbyists, Entities and Clients. This work is tedious and takes a great deal of time to research, but the report gives a snapshot of who is non-compliant. The Commission discussed the importance of knowing delinquencies so that the Commission can discuss potential action.

Commissioners also mentioned the possibility of including ISD as part of the lobbying compliance process.

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 2:46 PM.