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CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, Vivien Li, Vivian Leonard and City Clerk Alex Geourntas

Others Present: Assistant City Clerk Dassie Bheechem

Not Present: Christine O'Donnell representing City Council President Ed Flynn

Meeting called to order at 3:14 PM

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

Motion offered to accept Meeting Minutes from 2/9/23 and seconded by Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Election of Commission Chair

Motion was offered by Vivian Leonard to nominate Sammy Nabulsi as Commission Chair, seconded by Vivien Li. Sammy Nabulsi accepts nomination. All in favor. (Sammy Nabulsi abstained)

City Clerk Report

City Clerk Alex Geourntas informed the Commission that we have 100% compliance for all filings as of the last reporting period. All registered Lobbyists, Entities and Clients are in full compliance. The next quarterly reports are due on April 20, 2023 as required by the city ordinance.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners about the registration of Lobbyists for the various unions that are in the City of Boston. Most unions have lobbyists that advocate on behalf of their members, be it with the city directly on various issues and/or contract negotiations. Commissioners asked for a review of the current database of registrations at the City Clerk's Office to get a sense of which unions have registered.

Also, inquiry was made as to reporting requirements for texting and TV advertisements and the Commission felt that over reporting is better than under reporting for the upcoming reporting cycle on April 20, 2023.

Old/New Business

Sammy Nabulsi updated the Commission in pursuing an advisory from the Law Department in light of the recent court decision relative to Sal DiMasi. Should there be an additional question posed about state convictions during the registration process for Lobbyists, Entities and Clients?

Commission members were in agreement that the city's Law Department should be consulted about this court decision, state convictions and the Open Meeting Law. Sammy Nabulsi will contact city's Law Department to invite one of the attorneys to attend the next Commission meeting on May 18, 2023.

During the City Council's public hearing for the appointment and re-appointment of Commission members, Councilor Michael Flaherty asked that the Commission make a presentation on Lobbying at one of the City Council Luncheons. Sammy Nabulsi will contact Councilor Flaherty for a list of questions and to schedule the presentation.

Commissioners discussed the date and time of the next Commission meeting and it will be scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 3 PM.

Commission Chair, Sammy Nabulsi is reviewing and finalizing the text for the webinar video for external and internal audiences and working on next steps.

Motion to adjourn meeting was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Vivian Leonard. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:59 PM.