

Substantive Changes Made Since November 2015 Lobby Reform Ordinance Draft

1. Added 26 hour a quarter lobby work requirement to compensation threshold to prevent highly paid employees who rarely lobby from having to register. Limited a lobbying day to a maximum of 8 hours for time threshold.
2. Made compensation ranges broader so easier to comply with. Raised specific itemization threshold for compensation to \$500,000 per client.
3. Provided specific subject matter reporting can be less descriptive (no ordinance, permit, or resolution numbers required). Property address or description required. Required clerk to provide subject matter boxes, making reporting easier.
4. Clarified late filing notice must go out for each late fee, so fines do not continue to run without notice. Capped late fee at \$500.
5. Provided a 14-day self-correcting grace period from when a lobbyist discovers an error on their reports, preventing "gotchas".
6. Added a business firm may file only one report for all employees that lobby, with a reduced fee. This is not allowed under state law but is a large administrative convenience.
7. Struck intermediary communications from definition of lobbying, to make it clear only direct communications by the specific person are included.
8. Struck from definition of lobbying the activities of those aiding another to lobby, so their assistants' time will not be considered in lobbyists' compensation threshold.
9. Changed the trigger from reporting new clients from when the lobbyist first directly communicates, rather than when they sign a new agreement.
10. Added certain expenditures must be under registrant's directions to be reported, such as for public relations consultants, so lobbyists are clearly not responsible for others unless they are directly them.
11. Added that all persons, compensated or not, who meet with city officials must sign-in and indicate their subject matter and client. So neighborhood association and environmentalist advocates who are unpaid must record their meetings with city officials.
12. Excluded from compensation or expenditures lobbyist expenditures on themselves for travel, food, or lodging.
13. Dropped reporting of office expenditures as an unnecessary burden.
14. Clarified itemization of expenditure is only for expenditures in a particular category that exceed \$50 in a day.
15. Dropped compensation reporting for lobbyists assistants.
16. Eliminated good will in the definition of lobbying.
17. Added a criminal offense requires a knowing or intentional violation.
18. Provides that upon the effective date of this lobbyist ordinance, June 1, 2017, that the lobbyist ban on serving on city board in 2-1-22(C) remains in effect after the June 1 effective date if the council doesn't modify the ban or strengthen the conflict of interest laws.
19. Clarified that sharing information to demonstrate compliance with an audit, inspection, or city law doesn't count for purposes of the compensation threshold.
20. Lobby fees lowered from current \$300 a year, to \$100 annually per registrant, \$50 for each employee of an entity registrant, and \$25 for a full-time employee lobbyist for a 501c3 nonprofit.

