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CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes

**Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM
In-Person Meeting at the Piemonte Room
5th Floor of Boston City Hall**

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

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

Meeting called to order at 2:12 PM

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

Commission members reviewed the October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes and the following was offered:

Motion to amend 10/20/22 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Alex Geourntas. Several edits were suggested on Page 2 of the Meeting Minutes. All in favor.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to accept the 10/20/22 Minutes as amended; seconded by Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

City Clerk Alex Geourntas updated Commission members on the results of the 4th Quarter Reporting that was due on October 20, 2022 as follows:

Registered Lobbyists: 255
Lobbyists Reporting: 249
Lobbyists Non-Compliance: 6

Entities Registered: 69
Entities Reported: 68
Entities Non-Compliance: 1

Clients Registered: 129
Clients Reported: 128
Clients Non-Compliance: 1

Commissioners were happy with the high compliance rate and City Clerk office staff continues its work to contact those who are currently in non-compliance.

Commission members were concerned about the non-compliance status of the Back Bay Association and the Commission felt strongly that a violation letter should be sent to the Association. The violation letter text will be reviewed with city's Law Department and Commission members.

Henry Luthin, Senior Counsel for the city's Law Department will be contacted to assist with this matter and/or with the Corporation Counsel that is assigned to the City Clerk's Office.

The City Ordinance on Lobbying and the Lobbying Regulations will be added as hyperlinks as part of the annual registration process for all Lobbyists, Entities and Clients for Calendar Year 2023.

The City Clerk's Office received one fee waiver request from the Charles River Watershed Association.

Expenditure Reporting Requirements

Sammy Nabulsi, Chair and Commission members discussed reporting of expenditures by non-profits and it was suggested that the Commission review 10 to 15 random reports by Lobbyists, Entities and Clients to review expenditures that are being listed.

Many non-profit organizations utilize a Customer Relations Management Software (CMR) and the random reports will provide a clearer picture of how expenses are listed.

The Commission welcomed Fred from Urban League during our meeting as he was recording video footage and taking pictures of the Commission meeting to begin the process of creating our Lobbying Video/Webinar. Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, will work to create script for the next segment to be recorded.

Also, a video clip of then-City Councilor Michelle Wu announcing the filing of the Lobbying Ordinance during a City Council meeting will be part of this project. Christine O'Donnell from City Council Central Staff will be contacted to provide the video clip to the Commission.

Dates will be offered to schedule dinner with former City Clerk Maureen Feeney.

The first Lobbying Commission Meeting for 2023 has been scheduled for January 19, 2023.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.