



CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 2:00 PM In-Person Meeting at the Piemonte Room 5th Floor of Boston City Hall

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

Others Present: Luzia Cardoso and Paul Flaherty from City Clerk's Office; Katherine McCormack and Charles Sheils (via Zoom) from Department of Innovation and Technology

Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM

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

Commission members reviewed the June 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes and a Motion was offered by Linda Champion to accept the 6/16/22 Minutes; seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

City Clerk Alex Geourntas provided a review of Lobbying data and discussed compliance with online reporting. Commissioners reviewed the Lobbying Reports and were pleased with the results. Reports showed a 95% compliance rate.

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, expressed his gratitude to staff on a job well done as did all the Commissioners making sure that compliance is consistent with the intent of the city ordinance.

Linda Champion referenced as staff contact registrants, notices should be also sent to entity address and directly to their registered agent if one is indicated. This constitutes legal notice relative to compliance with reporting and registration.

Inquiry was made as to whether Lobbyists are connected to clients and entities when registering and at the current time, they are not. Katherine McCormack from DoIT staff will work on the database to see if cross referencing can be incorporated during registration.

The Municipal Database for Lobbying was discussed as well and Charles Sheils from DoIT staff joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss the database with the Commission members. Commissioners discussed the posted information online and asked if non-compliance status can be added? Yes, it can and the team will work to add this to the database. The database is refreshed once a day and anyone accessing the database always has up-to-date information.

No lobbying complaints have been received regarding non-compliance by the City Clerk as of today.

Discussion on Registration Requirements

Discussion ensued regarding not-for-profit entities as it relates to registration of Lobbyists and should all employees involved with lobbying activities be registered? Also, should their entities and clients be registered?

Prior to the 2023 Registration due in December 2022, an advisory will be included with the email reminders about registration. Sammy offered to work on the proposed text for the new advisory along with City Clerk Alex Geourntas and a review will take place at the next Commission meeting.

Old/New Business

Appointment of Commissioners was discussed as the Commissioners are serving as “holdovers” at the current time. Their terms are coterminous with the Mayor. City Clerk Alex Geourntas will reach out to the Mayor’s Office to get a status update.

As the Commission moves forward, the “holdover” status of members is a concern as it may preclude enforcing penalties for non-compliance as mandated by the city ordinance.

Sammy updated the Commission regarding BNN on-air efforts for a Lobbying presentation and he will contact them again to obtain a timeline. This presentation would be an educational summary of Lobbying for BNN viewers.

The interest is still there for Urban League to create a lobbying webinar.

Contact will be also be made with city’s HR to incorporate lobbying certification for all new and current city employees.

The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 2 PM.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.