

Questions forwarded to the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar from the Effective Governance and Oversight Task Force meeting of December 15, 2021

Member 1:

"I would like to know how many lobbyists are registered with the City of Vaughan's registrar compared to those of our contemporaries in the GTA. The figure of 75 for the City and 3,000 province-wide was a little shocking, especially when we consider how community groups like ratepayers and neighbourhood associations to large developers can be considered lobbyist. It would be nice to have a comparison between the municipalities itself."

Member 2:

(Note: refers to [Communication C1](#) from the Effective Governance and Oversight Task Force meeting of December 15, 2021 and its attachments)

- "1. On page 3 it says, "The City of Vaughan does not place an obligation on the public office holder that requires them to identify a lobbyist and refrain from communications". The question is why not? If a lobbyist shall not knowingly put a public office holder in a conflict of interest, then isn't the public office holder best served by obliging he/she to identify the lobbyist in some formal manner?"*
- 2. On slide 8 of the PowerPoint slide "lobbying in an election year..." Why are words not stronger in nature? I.e., "lobbyists should not fundraise for a candidate..." Why not replace "should" with "must not"?"*
- 3. On the same slide it says, "a registered lobbyist may volunteer to work on a candidate's election campaign if in a minor capacity," however in a situation if in a "significant capacity," it says, "a lobbyist should seek the advice of the lobbyist registrar." This doesn't sound like there are significant implications if a lobbyist does not contact the lobbyist registrar. Why not? It would appear to me that this situation would definitely fall under the category of "Lobbyists shall avoid both the deed and the appearance of impropriety and shall not knowingly put a public office holder in a conflict of interest."*

In general, if the onus is on the lobbyist ("the onus of disclosure of identity and purpose of the communication activity with the public office holder rests with the lobbyist" - page 3 of the document), then where are the checks and balances?

Member 3:

- "1. The Vaughan registry compared to other jurisdictions with registries does not seem as in-depth in terms of publicly accessible information (e.g. search ability, disclosure of detailed information about the nature of lobbying). Does the City have plans or a timeline to unveil a more robust system?"*
- 2. At launch, the City allowed lobbyists roughly one year to become familiar before the rules took effect. Since the launch, how many (if any) lobbyists were either*

warned or cited for violations?

3. *Respecting privacy and confidentiality, has the City received any concerns from staff or elected officials about improper/illegal lobbying, and/or is there a detailed mechanism in place for them to raise these concerns (on record or anonymously)?*
4. *The City's registry currently operates with a model where lobbying can occur by individuals before registration, something that differs from other jurisdictions. Is this something that would be revisited to put a greater onus on compliance?*
5. *Do staff and/or elected officials receive any training on the registry, the processes and what is illegal lobbying? If so, how frequently?*
6. *Currently the posted log of registrations on the registry is approximately 100 entries. Compared to other jurisdictions and given the increased volume of lobbying during the pandemic, does the low level of entries in the Vaughan registry seem concerning, and if so, what actions are being taken to ensure the registry is reflecting the depth of lobbying occurring with city staff and elected officials."*