

MOTION

6. Lobbyist Registry for the City of Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on December 4, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on December 5, 2018, in order to hear from speakers.

SUBMITTED BY: Mayor Stewart

WHEREAS

1. The public has an increasing interest in greater transparency in government and the City of Vancouver has been at the forefront of efforts to increase access to information, including establishing the first open data policy for a major city in Canada;
2. Lobbyist registries are intended to provide a public record that is accessible to residents of interactions between public servants, elected officials and lobbyists and to allow for rules regarding lobbyists to be enforced;
3. Previous Councils have repeatedly asked staff to investigate options for creating a municipal lobbyist registry between 2006 and 2017;
4. British Columbia does not currently allow municipalities to use the provincial lobbyist registry nor does it extend the legal authorities municipalities would need to enforce lobbyist rules with a local registry;
5. In 2017, City staff produced a memo on February 8, 2017 for the previous council outlining options for how the Province can provide the City with the ability to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyist's conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, and the ability to enforce those rules;
6. On February 21, 2017, the previous Council unanimously adopted a motion that was then submitted as a resolution to the 2017 Union of BC Municipalities convention asking the Province to provide municipalities with the ability to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, and the ability to enforce those rules;
7. The City's resolution was successfully adopted by Union of BC Municipalities delegates in September 2017 and forwarded to the Province for response;
8. The most recent response by the Province in February 2018 to the 2017 UBCM resolution affirmed the Province is willing to discuss the matter further.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City request the Province immediately take one of the following two actions in response to the resolutions adopted by the previous Council and Union of BC Municipalities in 2017 regarding the regulation of municipal lobbyists:

- i) The Province amend the *Lobbyist Registration Act* to cover the City of Vancouver and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; OR,
- ii) The Province amend the *Vancouver Charter* to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both levels of government.

* * * * *