

From: Raymond Chan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Clerks Public <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: 8.1 - Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure System in Ontario

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Please see the attached letter in support of General Committee item **8.1 - Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure System in Ontario** - a matter which will be considered at the December 7th meeting. It would be appreciated if my comments could be included on the agenda and circulated to council members in advance of the meeting.

Thank you,

Raymond Chan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 29, 2021

City Clerk
City of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
L3R 9W3

Sent via Email: clerkspublic@markham.ca

Dear Members of General Committee,

Re: 8.1 - Lobbyist Registration and Disclosure System in Ontario

I am writing in support of adopting a lobbyist registration system for the City of Markham, a matter that will be considered at the December 7th meeting of General Committee.

As a former political staffer and more recently a municipal government relations strategist here in Ontario, I have seen first hand the need and advantages of implementing a lobbyist registration system across all of the province's 444 municipalities.

A lobbyist registration system keeps the business and issues with government transparent, where all parties involved are expected to be responsible and accountable for their actions. While not all perfect, two of the best systems I have used are 1) the City of Toronto and 2) the City of Brampton. The two other levels of government in this country have more robust systems in place and it's high time for municipalities to implement and do the same. While I recognize there are costs and resources that need to be dedicated to such an endeavour, I can assure you that they are a worthwhile investment and will keep Markham taxpayers informed.

I would also encourage committee members to consider rules around oversight, penalties for contravention of the bylaws and an educational framework for both lobbyists and the general public upon implementation. A lobbyist registration system should be something that is celebrated and it's information that all Markham residents deserve access to. Transparency in our local governments depends on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments, I look forward to future discussions around this topic and eventual implementation.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chan

From: Michael Gannon <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:36 AM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>

Cc: Councillor, Alan Ho - Markham <Alan.ho@markham.ca>; Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham <ACollucci@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham <jheath@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <KRea@markham.ca>; Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham <AKeyes@markham.ca>; Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham <ILee@markham.ca>; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham <RMcAlpine@markham.ca>; Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham <KUsman@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham <jjones@markham.ca>; Mayor Scarpitti <MayorScarpitti@markham.ca>; Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham <DHamilton@markham.ca>; Regional Councillor, Joe Li - Markham <JLi3@markham.ca>; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham <KIrish@markham.ca>; Kitteringham, Kimberley <KKitteringham@markham.ca>; Taylor, Andy <ataylor@markham.ca>

Subject: URA Deputation re Lobbyists Registry

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kindly accept this deputation in support of the staff recommendations with respect to a Lobbyist Registry, item 8.2 at GC tomorrow December 7th.

Regards
Mike Gannon
URA President

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Deputation in support of the staff recommendation re Lobbyists Registry

General Committee December 7th 2021

The URA (Unionville Residents Association) supports the need for greater transparency in our municipal democratic processes. We support staff's recommendation to continue work on the Lobbyist Registry.

At the Provincial level, there are several policy aspects subject to lobbying, such as education, health, transit etc. At the Municipal level we suspect the majority of lobbying activity relates to development and developers. We fully respect that the development industry has a right, and indeed an obligation to its shareholders, to pursue its legitimate objectives. How they do this however is not as transparent as it could be in our view. We are pleased to see that campaign contributions are also being reviewed at this meeting.

We recently noted that despite having voted at a Markham Council meeting for a land use planning intensification level of 60%, two regional councilors, just 4 days later on October 21st, switched their votes and voted against that level at the Region. Why? Were they not fully prepared, or were there other factors? Two regional councilors having previously voted to continue to review a vacant homes tax at the Region level, then recently voted against it in Markham. Why?

We have a great theatre in Markham, supported by a developer. We have the 31st World Hakka Conference taking place in Markham next year, supported by a veritable who's who of the local development industry. The average resident might wonder what the relationship is between development and a cultural conference, but if that enables it to take place, perhaps that's ok. The challenge for the average resident is the lack of information to make appropriate judgements. Perhaps we would not have such a great city without developer funded "stuff" but we would be naïve to assume it is totally altruistic. If a Lobbyist Registration & Disclosure System can help produce more open municipal government, then we are all for it.

Thank you.

Unionville Residents Association Dec 6th 2021