From: Andrew Yu
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Written submission - Council Meeting 14 December - proposed Lobbyist Registry

To Members of Council:

I am writing in support of the City of Markham establishing a Lobbyist Registry. I ask that Council approve the implementation of a Lobbyist Registry in principle.

Being a measure that increases transparency and accountability in the City's governance, a well-functioning lobbyist registry can be a valuable tool in the ongoing process towards eliminating systemic racism in Markham. In many instances, lobbying has the effect of entrenching opaque "old boys' network" type power/influence relationships through quid-pro-quo arrangements and other manifestations of elite capture. This impedes efforts to ensure the perspectives of diverse communities are properly considered for the issue subjected to lobbying, with disproportionately negative impact on racial minorities and other disadvantaged stakeholders.

Having served as Chair of Markham's Race Relations Committee from October 2018 to April 2021, I continue to advise that Council adopt all appropriate measures to promote inclusive diversity and eliminate systemic racism in the city. A lobbyist registry is one such measure that deserves Council's support.

Thank you.

Andrew Yu

December 14, 2021

To: City of Markham Council

Re: Establishment of a City of Markham Lobbyist Registry

On behalf of the Public Affairs Association of Canada (PAAC) Ontario Chapter, we are pleased to express our support of a lobbyist registry provide these comments to the City of Markham Council as it considers the development of a lobbyist registry.

Overview of the Public Affairs Association of Canada
PAAC is a national, not for profit organization founded in 1984. Its principal objective is to help public affairs professionals succeed in their work by providing forums for professional development, the exchange of new ideas and networking. PAAC also advocates on issues that directly impact its members.

PAAC's membership represents a cross section of many disciplines involved in public affairs including: Government relations, lobbying, public relations, policy analysis, and public opinion research. The association's members come from both the private and public sectors in areas such as energy, finance, small business, charities, government departments, municipalities, law and accounting firms, colleges and universities and trade associations. In Ontario, PAAC has approximately 330 members, many of whom are active in-house, organization and consultant lobbyists.

The Role of Lobbyists in the Public Discourse
Lobbying and Lobbyists serve a critically important function in the development of sound public policy. At a general level, lobbying helps to build the policy and political case for the government to act to address an issue or opportunity that impacts a particular group, say, a region of the country, a citizen's group, a business, or an economic sector. More specifically, lobbyists provide government policy makers and decision maker's information key to the development of balanced and fair policy. For example, lobbyists routinely provide impact studies on how a proposed course of action may impact a business group, charitable or industrial sector.

PAAC fully supports lobbying activity as a key component of the development of public policy if done transparently and in accordance with established rules.

In addition, several PAAC's lobbyist members have been instrumental in advocating for lobbyist registration systems, codes of conduct and other regulatory provisions for many years

at all levels of government in Canada. Its members have given testimony into the development of lobbyist registration systems at the City of Toronto as they developed the first mandatory lobbyist registration system for municipalities in Canada.

Position:

PAAC fully supports the policy objective of ensuring lobbying activity is transparent and in the public interest. We welcome the establishment of a lobbyist registry in the City of Markham and encourage members of Council to support it.

PAAC is on the record for supporting federal as well as existing provincial lobbying statutes and the need to ensure the highest level of transparency, predictability, and accountability for lobbying activity. Many municipalities are also looking at developing their own registries and have in fact hired staff to monitor lobbying activities. PAAC fully supports the development of additional municipal lobbyist registries and codes of conduct. The vast majority of lobbyists conduct their activities ethically, transparently and in line with established rules and guidelines and welcome these moves.

If a lobbyist registry for the City of Markham is developed, PAAC urges Council to consider that the key goal of a lobbyist registry is to provide information to the public in order to ensure that lobbying takes place in a clear and transparent manner. To support this aim, PAAC recommends the use of a platform that simplifies registration requirements. As an example, the federal lobbying registry is consistently cited by PAAC members as the simplest and most modern system in Canada.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. PAAC is always pleased to support robust lobbyist regulatory mechanisms to ensure ethical and transparent lobbying activity.

Contact Information:
Alex Greco
President
Public Affairs Association of Canada Ontario (PAAC) Ontario Chapter

From: Grandview Residents
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 10:20 PM
To: Clerks Public; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham; Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham
Cc: Marilyn Ginsburg ; Tarun Dewan; Azar Mohammd; Leslie Girdharry; Pattanaik; Majda Ambrozic; Peter Cox; Sabi Ahsan; Ruth Anne Videan ; Rhonda Duma ; Cathy Farrant
Subject: Regarding Meeting of Markham City Council December14, 2021

On behalf of the Grandview Area Residents Association, I wish to share our position regarding the following items on the Council Meeting Agenda for December 14th, 2021.

Lobbyist Registry

We are very much **in favour** of creating a Registry for lobbyists in our city. This form of transparency is long overdue and necessary in a city such as ours to promote our citizens' trust in civic affairs. Markham is no longer a small town. Residents have a right to know what goes on behind closed doors.

Tax on Vacant Dwellings

Based on the affordability crisis in housing throughout the city, **we support** the creation of a tax on vacant homes in Markham. Our area has numerous vacant houses that become eyesores and degrade the quality of our neighbourhood. These are owned by developers who wait for an opportune time (sometimes years) to tear them down while, in the meantime, a family could be living in them and contributing to the life of our community. These developers need an incentive to put these houses either on the rental market or put them up for sale.

Highway 413

Considering the significant and irreversible environmental costs that would accrue, and the unproven need for its construction, we ask that Markham City Council vote **NO** to Highway 413. This highway would benefit no one and will have terrible consequences for wetlands, watersheds, farmland, wildlife, and valuable green space. It is an irresponsible and unneeded initiative and we urge you to vote against it.

Sincerely,

Corie Bonnaffon

Co-chair, Grandview Area Residents Association

Please visit us at www.thornhillgara.com/