

To: CSSRA Committee members, Clerks and CC Ward 2 Councillor Lisa Kearns

I'm writing to express my support for the establishment of a city-wide lobbyist registry. This was a proposal suggested by Councillor Kearns at the last municipal election when we were competitors for the Ward 2 seat. It was a proposal I had no difficulty seeing was an excellent idea. The voters in Ward 2 clearly agreed.

In many ways the only relevant question for committee and council is 'how did we get so far without having a lobbyist registry already?' My guess would be that if this is not implemented now it will be something council needs to implement in the future, but potentially after an avoidable event that damages the reputation of council as a whole.

Inevitably, there may be some costs. I feel strongly, however, that staff should be encouraged not to 'overthink' this, for want of a better word, and to implement a low cost solution. The community needs to know who spoke to councillors and when, and there is surely no need for great technological or staff expenditure to achieve that very simple end.

My only suggestion would be that any solution give consideration of meetings between councillors and business or lobbying interests not just 'officially' at city hall, but any informal, social or unplanned gatherings where politicians and lobbyists may meet.

Yours sincerely,

Roland Tanner