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BOSTON, MA

City of Boston
Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Thursday, October 17, 2019

9:30 AM

Piemonte Room

Boston City Hall, 5th Floor

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Approval of 10/4/19 Meeting Minutes*
- 2. Update on Draft Regulations/Bulletin*
- 3. Update on October 20th Reporting Process*



**CITY OF BOSTON
Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission**

Minutes

**Friday, October 4, 2019, 9:30 A.M.
Boston City Hall – Piemonte Room – 5th Floor
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201**

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair; Vivien Li; Assistant City Clerk Alex Geourntas, designee of City Clerk Maureen Feeney; Michelle Goldberg, City Council Central Staff, designee of City Council President Andrea Campbell

Commission Members Not Present: City Clerk Maureen Feeney, Stephanie Everett and City Council President Andrea Campbell

Call to order at 9:35 A.M.

Sammy Nabulsi, Chair of the Commission, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance and first order of business was to review and approve the minutes of the September 11, 2019 Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve the September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Update on Draft Regulations

Sammy Nabulsi offered an update on the draft regulations by the Law Department and as of today, there have been no regulations drafted due to their busy caseload. Sammy indicated to the Commission that he has drafted a few regulations that have been raised in emails that were received during the Request for Information period relative to the Lobbying ordinance. The four draft regulations are as follows:

- Compensation
- Expenditures
- Ministerial Action
- Non-Discretionary City Approval

Text for each one is attached as part of the minutes and discussion ensued about all four draft regulations.

Vivien Li has concerns about the text under Compensation and would like to see “tickets” added as part of the list of compensation items. This has become a common type of gift. Adding “immediate family members” as well would limit who receives gifts.

Compensated and uncompensated Lobbyists are required to file reports.

The text under Expenditures needs to be further defined and review expenditure items listed at the state as examples for the city’s lobbying reports.

The text under Ministerial Action would need to be further defined by providing examples to better understand the intent of this regulation.

The Non-Discretionary City Approval text needs to be defined further as this is a bit more complex in terms of Lobbying. Vivien Li suggested clarification on private communications and less confusing text would be easier to understand.

Sammy Nabulsi agreed that these items still need to be reviewed and he will have updates at next Commission meeting.

Draft Bulletin

Sammy Nabulsi reviewed the bulletin language with Commission members relative to the Competitive Procurement Process and would the interaction with city departments on procurement be considered Lobbying?

Bulletin will be placed on City Clerk’s web pages under Lobbying as a resource for those filing reports during October. Once the Commission and Law Department sign off on the language, it will be posted for public review.

Motion was offered by Sammy Nabulsi to post Bulletin based on Law Department and Commission review with discussed changes included, seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Update on October 20 Reports

Alex Geourntas provided an update to Commission on the reporting documents for October and reports were distributed to Commission members present for their review. All information has also been updated on City Clerk’s web pages on Lobbying. The “reporting period” dates were discussed and the August reporting timeline was utilized for October as well.

Motion was offered by Sammy Nabulsi to set the start and end dates of each “reporting period” for 2020 and beyond as follows:

“Reporting Period” for Reports due on January 20, 2020

October 1, 2019 or date of registration through December 31, 2019

No Reports to be filed before January 10, 2020

Statement Reports due on or before Tuesday, January 21, 2020

“Reporting Period” for Reports due on April 20, 2020

January 1, 2020 or date of registration through March 31, 2020

No Reports to be filed before April 10, 2020

Statement Reports due on or before Monday, April 20, 2020

“Reporting Period” for Reports due on July 20, 2020

April 1, 2020 or date of registration through June 30, 2020

No Reports to be filed before July 10, 2020

Statement Reports due on or before Monday, July 20, 2020

“Reporting Period” for Reports due on October 20, 2020

July 1, 2020 or date of registration through September 30, 2020

No Reports to be filed before October 10, 2020

Statement Reports due on or before Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Motion was seconded by Vivien Li. All in favor.

Discussion ensued relative to future Commission meetings for the week of October 14th and the week of October 21st. Sammy Nabulsi will contact Commission members via email to schedule next Commission meeting.

Motion to adjourn was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM