



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

*Feedback on the City of Boston's
Lobbying Registration and Regulation Ordinance.*

OVERVIEW

In 2018, the Boston City Council passed—and Mayor Martin J. Walsh signed—an ordinance regarding lobbyist registration and regulation in the City of Boston. Beginning April 16, 2019, lobbyists, lobbying entities, and their clients must register annually with the City of Boston. The ordinance further requires that lobbyists, lobbying entities, and clients file quarterly disclosures regarding their lobbying activities and campaign contributions.

The ordinance creates the five-member Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission, which is charged with enforcing the provisions of the ordinance. Under the ordinance, the Commission is authorized to promulgate regulations to interpret, implement, and enforce the ordinance.

OUR GOAL

The Commission, with the support of the City Clerk's Office and the Law Department, has started the process of developing regulations to interpret, implement, and enforce the ordinance. The Commission is committed to finalizing regulations prior to the December 15, 2019 registration deadline for the 2020 registration year.

In the same spirit of transparency and participatory governance that underlies the ordinance, the Commission has committed to a robust public process in its development of regulations. The process will include a public comment period following publication of draft regulations and at least one public hearing during scheduled Commission meetings.

OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are interested in hearing from lobbyists, lobbying entities, and clients subject to the ordinance about your experiences registering as a lobbyist, entity or client with the City and the first disclosure filings in July 2019. We also want to know whether there are questions or concerns that you have regarding the interpretation or enforcement of the ordinance. Our goal is to review any information that you are willing to share with the Commission regarding your understanding of the ordinance and its registration and disclosure requirements. This information will be used to guide our regulation drafting process.

FORMAT

Your submission may take any form whether you would like to submit in letter form or in a short e-mail. We ask that you include your name, contact

information, and whether you are a lobbyist, lobbying entity, client, or other interested individual, organization, or entity.

We ask that you keep your comments focused on matters you believe will be helpful to the general public in understanding the requirements of the ordinance. Please do not include comments regarding concerns you have with the language of the ordinance itself and proposed changes to the ordinance. This Commission is charged with interpreting the current ordinance and is not authorized to change or implement the ordinance in a way that conflicts with the ordinance's express language.

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

Any written comments or information that you wish to provide should be addressed to the Commission's Chairman, Sammy Nabulsi, and sent to lobbying@boston.gov by Friday, September 6, 2019 by 12:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

This Request is for information purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation or invitation for services, nor should this Request be construed as formal notice of the public comment period under Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 30A.

Neither the City nor the Commission will award a contract on the basis of responses to the RFI.

All responses to this RFI are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 66, § 10.