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By City Clerk at 12:10 pm, Oct 17, 2022



CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes

**Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 2:00 PM
In-Person Meeting at the Piemonte Room
5th Floor of Boston City Hall**

Commission Members Present: Sammy Nabulsi, Chair, Vivien Li and City Clerk Alex Geourntas

Not Present: Linda Champion

Others Present: Shiaka Allen, city's HR Director of Talent Acquisition and Compliance

Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, opened the in-person Commission meeting and welcomed all present.

Commission members reviewed the August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes and the following was offered:

Motion to amend 8/25/22 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li, seconded by Sammy Nabulsi. Amend Page 1 of Meeting Minutes to include a comma (,) after Commission Chair under **Update on City Clerk Lobbying** section and replace "No Lobbying Complaints have been submitted as of today" on Page 2 right above **Discussion on Registration Requirements** section with "No complaints have been received regarding non-compliance by the City Clerk as of today."

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to accept the 8/25/22 Minutes as amended; seconded by Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

City Clerk Alex Geourntas discussed compliance with online reporting and the compliance rate continues to be 95%. Quarterly reporting statements are due on October 20, 2022.

Shiaka Allen, the city's Human Resources Director of Talent Acquisition and Compliance, joined us to discuss the possibility of included Lobbying as part of the yearly compliance requirements for city employees.

Shiaka provided a framework to begin this process and utilizing the text from the blast email that city employees received earlier this year. Also, the text of the city ordinance would be a part of the compliance. The Commission would need to create a policy statement and any questions by city employees would be directed to the City Clerk's Office. Human Resources would opt to include this as part of the compliance piece for March 2023.

This compliance piece may also be incorporated as part of the paperwork that each City Councilor receives each year including the text of the Open Meeting Law, the Conflict of Interest Law and the Standards of Conduct.

Old/New Business

Appointment of Commissioners was discussed as the Commissioners are serving as "holdovers" at the current time. Their terms are coterminous with the Mayor. City Clerk Alex Geourntas will reach out to the Mayor's Office to get a status update.

As the Commission moves forward, the "holdover" status of members is a concern as it may preclude enforcing penalties for non-compliance as mandated by the city ordinance.

Sammy updated the Commission regarding BNN on-air efforts for a Lobbying presentation and he will contact them again to obtain a timeline. This presentation would be an educational summary of Lobbying for BNN viewers.

The interest is still there for Urban League to create a lobbying webinar.

Discussion ensued relative to the Commission meeting schedule for the next few months as follows:

October 20, 2022

November 10, 2022

December 22, 2022

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

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.