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CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes

**Thursday, October 20, 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, Linda Champion and City Clerk Alex Geourntas

Not Present: Christine O'Donnell representing City Council President Ed Flynn

Meeting called to order at 2:09 PM

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

Commission members reviewed the September 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes and the following was offered:

Motion to amend 9/29/22 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li, seconded by Alex Geourntas. Amend Page 2 of Meeting Minutes in the first paragraph, by replacing the word "Lobbying" with Municipal Lobbying Compliance Training.

Motion was offered by Vivien Li to accept the 9/29/22 Minutes as amended; seconded by Alex Geourntas. 3 yes and 1 abstained (Champion).

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

City Clerk Alex Geourntas updated Commission members on his efforts relative to the yearly compliance for city employees. After speaking with Sarah Figueroa of the city's Law Department, we will be able to include Municipal Lobbying Compliance Training under the Ethics section of the yearly city employee compliance.

Shiaka Allen, the city's Human Resources Director of Talent Acquisition and Compliance, and I will continue to work together to include this for the March 2023 yearly compliance requirements for city employees.

The Lobbying compliance piece will also be incorporated as part of the swearing-in process for all mayoral appointees, the Mayor and City Councilors. Everyone will receive the text of the Open Meeting Law, the Conflict of Interest Law, Standards of Conduct and a copy of the city's Lobbying Ordinance.

Discussion ensued by Vivien Li about the possibility of including hyperlinks during the registration process which is due by December 15, 2022 for Calendar Year 2023. These links would include the city ordinance on Lobbying and the Lobbying Regulations. This would require all Lobbyists, Entities and Clients who register to certify that they have received and/or read the information.

As part of the enforcement piece, Linda Champion updated Commission members on the video production via email. Urban League and its students would be a great fit to create a Lobbying video and this could possibly occur at the November 10, 2022 Commission Meeting. Linda Champion will update Commission members on the plan for November.

There have been no fee waiver requests filed by Lobbyists, Entities or Clients as of today.

Vivien Li wanted to express her gratitude and to say "thank you" to the City Clerk's Office staff for all of their hard work and efforts relative to Lobbying.

Vivien Li suggested that Council President Ed Flynn could contact the Mayor's Office about re-appointments to the Commission. City Clerk Alex Geourntas will speak with Council President about the re-appointments.

Commissioners are serving as "holdovers" at the current time and their terms are coterminous with the Mayor. 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.

Old/New Business

Sammy Nabulsi suggested that Commission members would like to get together with former City Clerk Maureen Feeney who retired in February. City Clerk Alex Geourntas will reach out to Maureen to schedule a mutually convenient time for everyone.

Motion was offered to adjourn meeting by Vivien Li and seconded by Linda Champion. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 PM.