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By City Clerk at 9:51 am, Feb 08, 2023



CITY OF BOSTON

Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Remote Meeting via Google Meets

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 2:05 PM

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, opened the remote Commission meeting and welcomed all present.

Commission members reviewed the November 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes and the following was offered:

Motion to amend 11/10/22 Meeting Minutes was offered by Vivien Li and seconded by Linda Champion. Change the word "happy" to "pleased" on second page under reporting data. All in favor.

Motion was offered by Linda Champion to accept the 11/10/22 Minutes as amended; seconded by City Clerk Alex Geourntas. All in favor.

Update on City Clerk Lobbying

City Clerk Alex Geourntas updated Commission members on Calendar Year 2023 Registrations for Lobbyists, Entities and Clients.

2023 Total Registered:	386
Registered Lobbyists:	229
Registered Entities:	54
Registered Clients:	103

1st Quarter Reporting that was due on January 20, 2023 as follows:

Registered Lobbyists: 229
Lobbyists Reporting: 218
Lobbyists Non-Compliance: 11

Entities Registered: 54
Entities Reported: 51
Entities Non-Compliance: 3

Clients Registered: 103
Clients Reported: 101
Clients Non-Compliance: 2

The high compliance rate pleased the Commissioners and City Clerk staff continues to process reports to reach 100% compliance.

Violation Letter was sent on January 13, 2023 to the Back Bay Association relative to non-compliance and staff received a call from Meg Mainzer-Cohen a few days thereafter. Staff is currently working with Back Bay Association to become compliant.

City Clerk Alex Geourntas informed Commission members that the appointment letters were filed by the Mayor's Office and submitted to the City Council. The three appointment letters were referred to the City Council's Committee on Government Operations.

Mayor Wu reappointed Sammy Nabulsi and Vivien Li. The third member of the Commission will be Vivian Leonard.

Commission Chair, Sammy Nabulsi and Vivien Li, expressed their wholehearted appreciation to current Commissioner Linda Champion for her outstanding efforts during her tenure on the Commission.

Linda Champion will continue to attend Commission meetings to ensure a quorum is present. Linda will also continue to pursue our webinar efforts with the Urban League.

New Business

Commission Chair, Sammy Nabulsi, discussed the recent court decision by the MA Supreme Judicial Court regarding former Speaker of the House Sal DiMasi. The court decision states that Speaker DiMasi can register as a Lobbyist in Massachusetts since current laws does not prohibit anyone from being a Lobbyist who has been convicted of a federal crime.

It was suggested that the Commission review the current city ordinance as it pertains to federal and state convictions. City ordinance is silent on that currently.

Commissioners discussed making arrangement to meet with former City Clerk Maureen Feeney for dinner in the next couple of weeks. City Clerk Alex Geourntas will present a few dates to Commission members on availability.

The next Commission Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 2 PM.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.