



April 25, 2023

TO: Barrie City Council
City Clerk Cooke, CAO Prowse
(requesting inclusion on the Circulation List)

Re: Establishing a Lobbyist Registry

Dear Mayor, Council and City Staff,

We were very pleased to see Staff Report LCS007-23, “Establishing a Lobbyist Registry and Appointment of a Lobbyist Registrar” on the Agenda for this week’s General Committee meeting. As many of you know, a lobbyist registry has been an initiative EBO has supported since Engage Barrie was just a grassroots collective, and the issue was brought to Council by Councillor Aylwin in 2019. Establishing a lobbyist registry is a useful tool in bringing accountability and transparency – two of our founding values – to local government.

Thank you to City staff for all their work on this report, their research and recommendations. We are excited to see Barrie poised to join the other ten Ontario municipalities that have established lobbyist registries.

There is one small addition to what staff are proposing that we’d like to suggest / request, and that is to include a layer of accountability and responsibility for any Public Office Holder (member of Council or City Official) when meeting with lobbyists (or potential lobbyists), much as the City of Burlington implemented in January, 2022 (a link to their policy can be found at <https://www.burlington.ca/en/council-and-city-administration/resources/Corporate-Policies/Lobbyist-Registration.pdf>).

Section 5 of Burlington’s Lobbyist Registration Policy specifies that a Public Office Holder is responsible for advising any individuals intending to lobby, of the City’s policy. As well, a Public Office Holder is not to engage in any lobbying-related communication with anyone who has not filed a registration. This added clause makes it clear that all are responsible for ensuring this policy is adhered to, and ensures a “level playing field” for all.

We ask that a similar clause be added to the policy proposed in Staff Report LSC007-23.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rob Romanek, Anita Johnson-Ford, Alyssa Wright, Victoria Scott and James Kerekes (the Board)
Engage Barrie Organization