



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MEMORANDUM**

Page: 1
File:
Pending #:

TO: DEPUTY MAYOR, R. THOMSON AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR, A. NUTTALL

RE: CITY OF BARRIE LOBBYIST REGISTRY

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with information associated with the item for discussion concerning the City of Barrie Lobbyist Registry to be discussed at the General Committee meeting on December 14, 2022.

As we all know, transparency in the process of government decision-making is of extremely-high importance. The integrity of the process is paramount as we as a City Council seek to institute our Strategic Plan in the years to come.

The creation of the Lobbyist Registry is to bring Barrie into line with best practices in the municipal sector. A registry is a tool that will give Barrie residents information as to what special interests are seeking to provide input in policy creation. Special interest groups are welcome to meet with members of Council and senior City staff, but residents expect transparency and accountability and open policy creation processes.

As a team, Council has decided that Responsible Governance is a key priority and this is another initiative that aligns with this strategic priority. The creation of a transparent and open registry will bring the City of Barrie in line with municipalities like Guelph, Collingwood, Hamilton and others.

The onus for a lobbying registry is placed on those who are conducting the lobbying rather than those who are being lobbied. The purpose of a registry is not to change the process of policy creation, but rather to openness around this process.

As our City grows, so do the importance and ramifications of the decisions we make. As our public service investigates the best form of a registry to be created in Barrie, I look forward to the detailed recommendations from City staff that would again bring the City of Barrie into line with provincial and federal standards and best practices in the municipal sector.