Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 9, 2014

REPORTS

Minute No. 255 Lobbyist Registry

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee referred the Council motion of March 26, 2014, to the Governance Committee of Council.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Nordman,
That the Council motion of March 26, 2014, be referred to the Governance Committee of Council.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 26, 2014, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS Lobbyist Registries have been implemented in major Canadian Cities, such as Toronto and Ottawa and are common in Canadian Provincial Governments as well as other Governments in the world;

AND WHEREAS a Lobbyist Registry would require all lobbying organizations to register before they contact Elected Officials or Senior Administrators in City Government on matters of policy, procedures or major Council and Administrative decisions;

AND WHEREAS transparency and open access to Civic Government is an important matter of public interest;

AND WHEREAS Lobbyists perform a legitimate activity and public purpose;

AND WHEREAS the public and Elected Officials should be able to identify organizations engaged in lobbying activites;

AND WHEREAS a Lobbyist Registry would not impede free and open access to government;

AND WHEREAS a Lobbyist Registry would add to the trust in the Civic Administration and Council decision-making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service be directed to devise a Lobbyist Registry, based upon best practices from Cities like Toronto and Ottawa as well as the Provincial Governments;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Lobbyist Registry be administered through the City Auditor, and that an annual report be filed by the City Auditor on activities and registrants;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the City Auditor recommend penalties for violation of the Lobbyist Registry;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Public Service report back to Council within 60 days with a recommended plan for Council adoption.