



MEMO



TO:	Honorable Mayor & City Council	FROM:	Nikki Fortunato Bas
	Members of the Public		Council President, District 2
SUBJECT:	Master Fee Schedule Amendments To Conform To The Lobbyist Registration Act	DATE:	October 26, 2023

On October 17, 2023, City Council voted to approve amendments to the Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) with the purpose of codifying in the LRA the \$500/year lobbyist registration fee, establishing a lobbyist registration fee waiver and fee reduction, capping the late filing fee for lobbyist quarterly reports, requiring that lobbyists attend a training on the LRA, changing the lobbying quarterly reports filing schedule and authorizing the PEC to require additional information in quarterly reports and making other more minor and technical amendments to the LRA. **The ordinance before you amends the Master Fee Schedule to conform to the proposed fee schedule in the LRA.**

In June of this year, the City Council adopted its Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, which, at the request of the Public Ethics Commission (PEC or Commission), included a new \$500 annual lobbyist registration fee and a new \$10/day lobbyist late filing fee. In recommending that the City Council adopt these fees, the PEC committed to developing a registration fee waiver policy for lobbyists who are employees of nonprofits or community-based organizations for the City Council’s consideration.

This proposal codifies the recent Master Fee Schedule amendments in the Lobbyist Registration Act (LRA) and adds three changes to the standard fee structure to mitigate hardship and promote fee equity:

- A fee waiver for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with less than \$750,000 in annual revenue;
- A fee reduction for small businesses and organizations with less than \$200,000 in annual revenue; and
- A 50% fee reduction for lobbyists registering in the second half of the year.

The proposed LRA Amendments also give the PEC the authority to modify these fee reductions or waivers based on experience administering the fee. Additionally, the \$10/day late fee would be capped at \$1,000, which is the PEC’s maximum fining authority under the LRA.

I’m grateful for the opportunity to partner with our Public Ethics Commission and its Executive Director, Nicolas Heidorn to bring these conforming changes forward. Thank you for your consideration.

City Council
November 7, 2023