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## CITY OF BOSTON Municipal Lobbying Compliance Commission

### Minutes Thursday, December 2, 2021, 1:30 PM Virtual Meeting held remotely via Google Meet Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

**Commission Members Present:** City Clerk Maureen Feeney, Sammy Nabulsi, Linda Champion, Vivien Li and Christine O'Donnell representing City Council President Pro Tempore Matt O'Malley

**Others Present:** Katherine McCormack from the Department of Innovation and Technology (DOIT); Kevin Browne (DOIT).

#### **Call to order at 1:43 PM**

Sammy Nabulsi, Commission Chair, opened the virtual meeting by welcoming everyone. The Commission proceeded with the agenda and discussed the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting. City Clerk Maureen Feeney stated that she would like to make a change to the minutes on page 2 concerning the CCL number. City Clerk Maureen Feeney explained that there are continued complications with the CCL numbers because of the amount of terminations. City Clerk Maureen Feeney explained that the CCL number should never change for anyone and that the CCL number remains with the person for all lobbying with the City of Boston. Chair Nabulsi suggested adding the following provision: **Policies have been updated so that the CCL number stays with the lobbyist even if the lobbyist moves to another entity.** Chair Nabulsi asked if there are other changes to the minutes. With no other changes being presented, Commissioner Champion moved to adopt the minutes from October 21, 2021 as amended. Commissioner Li seconded and the minutes of the October 21, 2021 meeting as amended were approved by the Commission.

#### **City Clerk Update**

City Clerk Maureen Feeney provided a general update of reporting and registration requirements and explained that 23 lobbyists have not reported and that 16 entities have not reported. City Clerk Maureen Feeney explained that there are clients that have not reported but that the City Clerk's Office is

reviewing those reports manually. City Clerk Maureen Feeney explained that a letter will go out regarding registration and reporting; that registration is required by December 15, 2021 to lobby in 2022; and, the registration period is open from December 1, 2021 and December 15, 2021.

### **Update on Lobbying Website Pages**

Katherine McCormack provided an update on the website explaining that lobbyists, entities, and clients will be able to report electronically moving forward rather than PDFs and Google Docs. DOIT created a system where emails are specific with the lobbyist and that the numbers, names, and emails are matched.

### **Old/New Business**

The Commission discussed reporting milestones. City Clerk Maureen Feeney explained that there were issues with October reporting where people were trying to register but could not because requirements were not showing as being met.

The Commission discussed fee waivers. City Clerk Maureen Feeney stated that there were no complaints or fee waiver requests. Commissioner Li discussed the Knack system and that the form goes to the City Clerk. The deadline for the fee waiver request was November 1st. City Clerk Maureen Feeney suspects that there will be more fee waiver requests in the future.

The Commission discussed the timeline for registration as well as its impact on fee waivers. City Clerk Maureen Feeney stated that the deadline for registration is December 15, 2021. Chair Nabulsi discussed that December 15, 2021 is the definitive date for registration. City Clerk Maureen Feeney inquired whether it would be helpful to remove the registration date for December. Commissioner Li commented that the Clerk has the discretion to grant waivers and that there have not been a lot of requests. The Commission discussed that if the registration date is moved, the fee waiver request would also be moved.

Chair Nabulsi discussed lobbying activity and notice to City employees. Chair Nabulsi explained that there may be lobbying activity that people may not realize is lobbying. The Commission discussed having a City communication that highlights key aspects of the ordinance, rulemaking, and the role of employees. Enforcement will likely be City driven so employees should be aware if something does not line up. City Clerk Maureen Feeney suggested that the communication go out in January. The Commission discussed if the communication should come from the law department with the assistance of the Commission. The Commission discussed the logistics of the communication including what should be in it, who would distribute it, and that it should be user friendly.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.