

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 4-8 (REGULATION OF LOBBYISTS) TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF “CITY OFFICIAL”; REQUIRE THAT INFORMATION RELATED TO DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH CITY OFFICIALS BE REPORTED IN ACTIVITY REPORTS; MODIFY THE REQUIREMENT TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS WITH A CITY OFFICIAL; REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF CITY DEPARTMENTS OR OFFICES TO PROVIDE A REPORTING METHOD; REMOVE THE EXCEPTION FOR WRITTEN DISCLOSURES TO THE CITY DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE; AND REVISE THE INFORMATION FOR CITY AUDITOR REVIEW.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 4-8-2 (*Definitions*) is amended to read:

(2) CITY OFFICIAL has the meaning assigned by § 2-7-71(1), except that it does not include spouses. [means:

~~(a) the mayor, or mayor-elect;~~

~~(b) a council member, or council member-elect;~~

~~(c) a City employee, other than a City employee whose duties are solely clerical; or~~

~~(d) a member of a City board or of a body created by the council and listed by the city clerk under § 2-1-3(C) (Boards Established).]~~

PART 2. Subsection (A) of City Code Section 4-8-6 (*Activity Reports*) is amended to read:

(A) Each registrant shall file between the first and tenth day of April, July, October, and January a report of the registrant's lobbying activities during the previous calendar quarter. The report shall be on a form prescribed by the city clerk and shall include:

(1) a complete and current statement of the information required to be reported under Section 4-8-5 (Registration);

(2) the amount of compensation or reimbursement paid by each client for lobbying, reported in the following categories unless reported as an exact amount:

(a) \$0 if no compensation or reimbursement is received;

- 31 (b) less than \$10,000;
- 32 (c) at least \$10,000 but less than \$25,000;
- 33 (d) at least \$25,000 but less than \$50,000;
- 34 (e) at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000;
- 35 (f) at least \$100,000 but less than \$200,000;
- 36 (g) at least \$200,000 but less than \$300,000;
- 37 (h) at least \$300,000 but less than \$400,000;
- 38 (i) at least \$400,000 but less than \$500,000;
- 39 (j) \$500,000 and over reported as an exact amount.

40 (3) total expenditures on lobbying broken down into the following categories,
41 provided that cumulative expenditures of more than \$50 per day per City
42 official in a designated reporting category shall be itemized by the date, name,
43 and address of the recipient, the amount, and the purpose of the expenditure:

- 44 (a) reimbursement to others;
- 45 (b) food and beverages;
- 46 (c) transportation and lodging;
- 47 (d) gifts, other than awards and mementos;
- 48 (e) entertainment;
- 49 (f) awards and mementos;
- 50 (g) honorariums;
- 51 (h) expenditures made for the attendance of city council members at
52 political fund-raisers or charity events;
- 53 (i) expenditures made by the registrant, or by others on the
54 registrant's behalf or with the registrant's direction, for broadcast or
55 print advertisements, direct mailings, and other media
56 communications if:

57 (i) the communications are made to a person other than a
58 member, employee, or stockholder of an entity that
59 reimburses, retains, or employs the registrant; and

60 (ii) the communications support or oppose, or encourage
61 others to support or oppose, municipal questions; and

62 (j) payments made by the registrant, or by others on the registrant's behalf
63 or with the registrant's direction, to persons who are paid to assist or
64 prepare the lobbyist on a municipal question to influence a City official
65 through broadcast or print advertisements, social media, direct mailing,
66 or other media communications, including political experts, strategists,
67 pollsters, media consultants, and public relations consultants, excluding
68 purely clerical or administrative assistance;

69 (4) each business entity in which the registrant knows, or should know, that a
70 City official is a proprietor, partner, director, officer, manager, employer,
71 employee, or in which a City official has a substantial economic interest, and
72 with which the registrant has engaged in an exchange of money, goods,
73 services, or anything of value if the total of the exchanges is \$500 or more in a
74 calendar quarter, identified by:

75 (a) the name and address of the business entity;

76 (b) the City official; and

77 (c) the date, amount, and nature of the exchange;

78 (5) a report of all direct communications with a City official for compensation on
79 behalf of another person on a municipal question, including:

80 (1) the name and address of the registrant;

81 (2) the name of the City official with whom they met;

82 (3) the date of the communication;

83 (4) the name of the client or person on whose behalf the appearance or
84 contact was made; and

85 (5) an affirmation indicating whether the person has received or expects to
86 receive compensation for the appearance or contact.

87 (~~5~~) 6) the name of each employer, the name of the person employed, and the
88 nature of the employment if the mayor, a council member, a relative of
89 the mayor or a council member within the third degree of consanguinity
90 or affinity, or a person living in the mayor's or a council member's
91 household is employed by the registrant. ~~[, the name of the employer, the~~
92 ~~name of the person employed, and the nature of the employment.]~~

93 **PART 3.** City Code Section 4-8-8 (*Appearance*) is amended to read:

94 (A) A registrant, or a person acting for a registrant, speaking before the council, a
95 City board, or a body created by the council and listed by the city clerk under
96 Section 2-1-3(C) (Boards Established), shall register to speak before that
97 appearance and, before speaking, orally identify:

- 98 (1) the person speaking;
99 (2) the registrant, if the person is acting for a registrant; and
100 (3) the client the registrant represents.

101 (B) A registrant, or a person acting for a registrant, shall at the beginning of an oral
102 communication with a City official identify:

- 103 (1) the person speaking;
104 (2) the registrant, if the person is acting for a registrant; and
105 (3) the client the registrant represents.

106 ~~[(C) A person who communicated directly with a City official for compensation on~~
107 ~~behalf of another person during a scheduled meeting on a municipal question~~
108 ~~shall disclose in writing to the city department, or office:~~

- 109 ~~(1) the name and address of the person;~~
110 ~~(2) the name of the City official with whom they are meeting;~~
111 ~~(3) the name of the client or person on whose behalf the appearance or~~
112 ~~contact is made; and~~
113 ~~(4) a statement regarding whether the person has received or expects to~~
114 ~~receive compensation for the appearance or contact.~~

115 ~~(D) Subsection (C) does not apply to:~~

~~(1) — a City official or employee; or~~

~~(2) — an appearance or communication on an intergovernmental matter if the person is an officer or employee of a government agency.~~

~~(E) — Each City department or office shall provide a reasonably practicable method for recording the information required by Subsection (C). If a department or office has a receptionist desk where visitors routinely check in, the department or office may satisfy this requirement with a sign-in sheet at the receptionist's desk that is designed to elicit the information required by Subsection (C).]~~

PART 4. City Code Section 4-8-9 (*Forms; Oaths; Review of Reports; Rules*) is amended to read:

(A) [~~Except as provided by Section 4-8-8(C) (Appearance), the~~] The city clerk may design and promulgate a form for any information required to be reported under this chapter. In this section “report” includes a registration, a report, and an update of, or an amendment to, a registration or a report. If the city clerk promulgates a form, a person required to file a report must file the report on the form.

PART 5. City Code Section 4-8-10 (*Review*) is amended to read:

The city auditor shall review the recorded information described in Section [~~4-8-8(E)~~] 4-8-6(A)(5) every three years to ensure compliance and to assess the risk of non-compliance. Not later than the 14th business day after finding an apparent violation, the auditor shall notify the city clerk, the city attorney, and the Ethics Review Commission.

PART 6. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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_____, 2026

Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Deborah Thomas
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Erika Brady
City Clerk