



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1295, **Agenda Item #:** 3.

3/23/2023

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 4-8 (Regulation of Lobbyists), related to registration and late filing fees.

Lead Department

Office of the City Clerk.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

June 19, 2019 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20190619-172 related to fee payment, registration, reporting, and other requirements and authorizing the City Clerk to waive late fees and deadlines in certain circumstances; amending City Code Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosures) relating to financial disclosure deadlines; and amending Ordinance No. 20180911-002 related to lobbyist registration fees related to persons lobbying on behalf of nonprofit organizations in.

September 22, 2016 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20160922-005 repealing and replacing City Code Chapter 4-8 relating to the regulation of lobbyists, setting fees related to the regulation of lobbyists, amending City Code Chapter 2-7 relating to the Ethics Review Commission, and amending City Code Section 2-2-62 relating to funding for the Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund.

For More Information:

Myrna Rios, City Clerk, 512-974-2210; Wajiha Rizvi, Law Department.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

February 22, 2023 - Ethics Review Commission approved the recommendation to Council to adopt an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 4-8 (Regulation of Lobbyists), including registration and late filing fees.

Additional Backup Information:

Under Chapter 4-8, lobbyists are required to file an annual registration on the anniversary of the date they first registered (4-8-5(D)) with a registration fee. In addition, there is a quarterly activity report (4-8-6). The activity reports cover all the registrant's lobbying activities during the previous quarter.

Late fees are incurred if a lobbyist doesn't file the quarterly activity reports within the designated time under the code (between the 1st and 10th day of April, July, October, and January).

The revisions are intended to clarify the code language and reflect what is currently in practice regarding deadlines and what to do if the deadline to perform an act falls on a weekend or a City holiday.

The revisions are also intended to clarify that the yearly lobbyist registration is distinct from the activity reports.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.