

## **Lobbyist Registration Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q) Who qualifies as a lobbyist?**

**A)** Anyone who spends more than 30 hours in any consecutive three-month period, with at least one direct communication with a City official or employee, for the purpose of attempting to influence municipal legislation on behalf of any other person.

### **Q) Are there exceptions to this?**

**A)** Yes. Anyone who is not paid, but just volunteers time for a cause is not required to register. Also, any public official does not have to register.

### **Q) What does it mean to register?**

**A)** A lobbyist must annually register with the City Controller and provide details of the company that they work for and the clients they represent.

### **Q) Does it cost anything to register?**

**A)** Yes, there is an annual registration fee of \$100. The City Controller will ONLY accept a check or money order as a form of payment. All checks and money orders should be made out to "Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh."

### **Q) What is the punishment for failing to register?**

**A)** A person who knowingly violates this law can receive civil penalties of up to \$2,000. If the court determines that a violation was intentional, the court may order that the defendant be prohibited from acting as a lobbyist.

### **Q) How does this registration handle nonprofits?**

**A)** People representing non-profits that receive public funds to serve indigent persons are not required to register.