

From the Desk of
Michael Ross

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Title: The 2018 San Mateo Lobbyist Registration & Reporting Act

Problem:

San Mateo has no lobbyist registration & Reporting requirements. It is my understanding that they do have a 'staff reporting requirement'. This means that where money is being spent, and whom it is being spent on. This is a scandal waiting to happen. Unfortunately that means that they are free to spend what they want on our officials.

Example:

Modern, competitive cities have lobbyists registration requirements. San Mateo does not. This allows for possible office holder and city staff corruption.

Solution:

Establish and enact a lobbyist registration act for the City of San Mateo

Support:

- 1) Consumer Groups
- 2) Lobbyists and Advocates
- 3) Office Holders
- 4) City Staff

Opposition:

- 1) Unknown

Arguments In Support:

- 1) This is how progressive, modern city governments operate;
- 2) Lobbyists are used to this;
- 3) As our city grows, we need to ensure honesty from those who represent us.

Arguments in Opposition:

- 1) Why waste time and money on this?
- 2) Not enough money coming in to be worried about;
- 3) Lobbyists are not involved in the operation of the City of San Mateo.

Fiscal Effect:

- 1) Expected to be revenue neutral.

Code Section Affected: As per Council

Language Attached: Yes

Language:

Section 1: Intent Language: It is the intent of this ordinance to require all professional advocates who do business with the city, to register.

Section 2: The ordinance should mirror state laws;

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Section 3: All professional Advocates must register with the city clerk within fifteen business days of doing business with the city on behalf of a client;

Section 4: Professional Advocates cannot spend more than \$9.99 per month on either elected officials or staff;

Section 5: Every three months, the registered advocate must submit a financial disclosure filing;

Section 6: Registration of the lobbyist will require a picture, form and \$50;

Section 7: Failure to report equals a \$2,500 fine or \$100 dollars, whichever is greater.