



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

August 15, 2016

Mr. John Arntz
Department of Elections
City Hall, Room 48
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Proposition T – Restricting Gifts and Campaign Contributions from Lobbyists

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, the cost to government would increase by a minimal amount in order to administer expanded lobbyist tracking requirements.

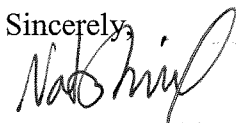
Lobbyists, both contact lobbyists and expenditure lobbyists, are currently required to register with the Ethics Commission. The proposed ordinance would require lobbyists to identify the agencies they intend to influence ahead of contact and would also prohibit lobbyists from making any gifts, including gift of travel, to any City officer and their family members. Non-profits would be allowed to provide gifts of food or refreshment up to \$25 for all attendees at a public event.

Lobbyists would be prohibited from making any contribution, including bundled contributions, to a City elective officer, candidate for office, or their candidate-controlled committee if the lobbyist is registered to lobby the agency for which the candidate is seeking election.

The proposed ordinance specifies a one-time budget amount of \$115,000 in fiscal year 2016-17, including \$100,000 for new software requirements and \$15,000 for one-time staff costs. The ordinance specifies that following depletion of the \$115,000 budget the City would budget \$5,000 annually for this program. Note that an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose and therefore future costs will ultimately depend on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process.

The ordinance can be amended without voter approval, subject to super-majority approval by both the Ethics Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,


Ben Rosenfield
Controller