

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB26-0686

SERIES OF 2026

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:

Community Planning and Housing

A BILL

For an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XIII of the Denver Revised Municipal Code concerning the regulation of lobbyists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. Article XIII of Chapter 2 of the Code is amended by deleting the language stricken and adding the language underlined to read as follows:

Sec. 2-300. – Legislative intent.

It is the intent of the city council to ~~provide for the submission of~~ require disclosure of pertinent information ~~pertaining to about~~ those ~~persons and their representatives~~ who seek to influence the outcome of city legislative and administrative matters, ~~such and for that~~ information to serve as a public record ~~in order that the citizens of Denver may know~~ of municipal lobbying activities in Denver.

Sec. 2-301. – Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

(1) Administrative matter means:

(a) Any agency's:

1. Consideration, amendment, adoption, or repeal of a rule or regulation under Article VI of Chapter 2; or

2. Final determination with respect to zoning or the use, development, or improvement of real property subject to City regulation;

(b) The Mayor's:

1. Approval or veto of legislation; or

2. Issuance, amendment, or rescission of an executive order.

(2) Agency means any office, department, board, or commission established under the Charter or Code of the City and County of Denver.

(3) Client means a person who compensates a lobbyist or a lobbying entity for the purpose of engaging in lobbying on the person's behalf.

(4) Compensate means to pay, employ, contract with, or provide something of value in return for services.

~~(1)(5)~~ Communicating means transmitting Communication includes, but is not limited to, a transmittal of information, data, ideas, opinions, or anything of a similar nature, ~~on a legislative matter, by personal interview, in writing, by telephone or by other methods to a covered official, whether in person, in writing, orally, or by any other means.~~

~~(2)(6)~~ Covered official means: ~~members of the city council, and their appointed advisory staff members; the mayor and his or her appointed advisory staff members; the auditor, the clerk and recorder; members of the water board; the manager of transportation and infrastructure; the manager of parks and recreation; the manager of finance; the manager of safety; the director of excise and licenses; the manager of general services; the manager of human services; the manager of aviation; the manager of public health and environment; the manager of community planning and development; the city attorney; the chief of police; and the fire chief.~~

(a) Any elected official of the City and County of Denver;

(b) Any officer listed in Charter section 2.2.6 (D), and any other individual appointed by the Mayor to head an agency or office not listed in Charter section 2.2.6 (D);

(c) Any individual appointed by an elected official to serve at the pleasure of the elected official;

(d) Any member of a City Councilmember's staff who is an at-will, non-career-service employee; and

(e) Any appointed member of a board or commission established by Charter or ordinance.

~~(3) Expenditure means a payment, subscription, distribution or gift of money, or anything of value, directly connected to the purpose of lobbying as defined in this section. Expenditure does not include a contribution in-kind from an organization for the purpose of allowing a covered official to attend a function sponsored by that organization, nor does it include payment to a nonprofit organization for the purpose of allowing a covered official to attend a function of the nonprofit organization.~~

(7) Covered official information means:

1 (a) For a covered official described in subsections 6(a) or 6(b), the covered official's
2 name, title, and agency or office;

3 (b) For a covered official described in subsections 6(c) and 6(d), only the office of the
4 elected official who appointed the covered official; and

5 (c) For a covered official described in subsection (6)(e), only the name of the board or
6 commission on which the covered official serves.

7 (8) Gift means any thing of value given without fair-market-value consideration.

8 (9) Grassroots lobbying expenditure means an expenditure made for a public
9 communication that:

10 (a) Refers to an identifiable legislative matter or administrative matter;

11 (b) Reflects a position on the matter; and

12 (c) Encourages members of the public to contact one or more covered officials regarding the
13 matter.

14 ~~(4)~~(10) Legislative matters means, but is not limited to, the drafting, introduction,
15 consideration, approval, or sponsorship of any bill, resolution, amendment, motion, nomination, or
16 appointment, whether or not in writing, pending, or proposed for consideration by the city council or
17 a committee thereof.

18 ~~(5)~~(11) Lobbying means directly communicating, on behalf of another, with a covered
19 official or soliciting others to communicate with a covered official to influence any legislative matter
20 or administrative matter.

21 (12) Lobbyist means an individual who is compensated to engage in lobbying.

22 (13) Lobbying entity means an entity that compensates one or more individuals to lobby on
23 behalf of the entity's client, or that engages in lobbying on its own behalf.

24 ~~(7)~~(14) Person means an individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, public or private
25 corporation, association, or organization. Person also means a political education, issues, or action
26 committee or fund, as a separate entity, or which is associated with a corporation, association or
27 organization formed principally for some other purpose, insofar as it engages in lobbying. has the
28 same meaning as that term is defined in section 1-2.

29
30 **Sec. 2-302. - Annual registration statement required.**

1 ~~(a) — Form of statement; duty of city clerk.~~ The city clerk shall prepare forms for the
2 registration statement and other information required to be filed by this article and furnish such forms
3 and information for use by persons subject to the requirements herein.

4 ~~(b) — Registration required.~~ All lobbyists shall file a registration statement with the city clerk
5 within five (5) days after first engaging in lobbying; provided, however, that an individual lobbyist will
6 be considered to have registered if the entity that employs him or her is registered and lists the
7 individual among its lobbyists on its registration or an amendment. In every succeeding year, all
8 lobbyists shall file an annual registration statement with the city clerk on January 15. The city clerk
9 will make the filed registrations available to the public online within a reasonable time, not to exceed
10 seven (7) business days from the date of receipt.

11 ~~(c) — Information required.~~ A registration statement required hereunder shall contain the
12 following information:

13 ~~(1) — The registrant's full name, business mailing address, email address, and city and state~~
14 ~~of residence;~~

15 ~~(2) — The name of the registrant's employer; or, if self-employed, the registrant's business~~
16 ~~or occupation; a business mailing address, and business telephone number;~~

17 ~~(3) — The names of all persons who are employed by the lobbyist to engage in lobbying;~~

18 ~~(4) — The legislative matters on which the registrant lobbies;~~

19 ~~(5) — Client information (if different from subsection (c)(2) above), including the full name,~~
20 ~~nature of business, phone number, and business street address of each client:~~

21 ~~a. — Who reimburses, retains or contracts with the registrant to lobby on a legislative~~
22 ~~matter;~~

23 ~~b. — On whose behalf the registrant lobbies on a legislative matter; and~~

24 ~~c. — By whom the registrant is paid or to be paid for such lobbying.~~

25 ~~(6) — The name of any covered official with whom the lobbyist is engaged in any business~~
26 ~~or employment relationship.~~

27 (a) Registration.

28 (1) Lobbyists. A lobbyist shall register with the city clerk within ten (10) days after the first
29 occurrence of either of the following during a calendar year:

30 a. Entering into an agreement to lobby on behalf of a client for compensation
31 exceeding one-thousand dollars (\$1,000); or

32 b. Receiving compensation for lobbying exceeding one-thousand dollars (\$1,000).

1 (2) Lobbying entities. A lobbying entity shall register with the city clerk within ten (10) days
2 after the first occurrence of either of the following during a calendar year:

3 a. Compensating or subcontracting a lobbyist for lobbying activities in an amount
4 exceeding one-thousand dollars (\$1,000); or

5 b. Compensating or directing employees or other individuals, on behalf of the
6 lobbying entity, to engage in lobbying activities for a total amount exceeding one-thousand dollars
7 (\$1,000).

8 (3) Grassroots lobbying expenditures. Any person who makes grassroots lobbying
9 expenditures totaling more than five-thousand dollars (\$5,000) during a calendar year shall register
10 as a lobbyist or lobbying entity with the city clerk within ten (10) days after exceeding that amount.

11 (b) Lobbyist registration information. A lobbyist shall provide the following information on
12 their registration statement:

13 (1) The lobbyist's full name, email address, telephone number, and business address, if
14 any;

15 (2) A list of legislative and administrative subject areas the lobbyist expects to engage in
16 lobbying, together with a general description of the lobbyist's legislative and administrative lobbying
17 activities; and

18 (3) A list of all clients the lobbyist represents, including for each client:

19 a. The client's name and address or, if the client is a business entity, its business
20 name and business address;

21 b. The earlier of:

22 1. The date the lobbyist entered into an agreement to lobby on behalf of the
23 client; or

24 2. The date the lobbyist first received compensation to lobby on behalf of
25 the client; and

26 c. A brief description of the business that the client is engaged in, if any.

27 (c) Lobbying entity registration information. A lobbying entity shall provide the following
28 information on its registration statement:

29 (1) A list of all lobbyists employed or engaged by the lobbying entity and any other
30 employees who may engage in lobbying on behalf of clients or the lobbying entity itself, including
31 each individual's full name, email address, telephone number, and business address, if any;

1 (2) A list of legislative and administrative subject areas the lobbying entity expects to
2 engage in lobbying, together with a general description of the entity's legislative and administrative
3 lobbying activities; and

4 (3) A list of all clients the lobbying entity represents, including for each client:

5 a. The client's name and address or, if the client is a business entity, its business
6 name and business address; and

7 b. A brief description of the business that the client is engaged in, if any.

8 (d) Business or employment relationship. A lobbyist or lobbying entity that has a business
9 or employment relationship with a covered official shall disclose that relationship on the registration
10 statement.

11 (e) Registration fee. Each lobbyist and lobbying entity shall pay a one-hundred-dollar
12 (\$100) registration fee when filing a registration statement with the city clerk.

13 ~~(d)(f)~~ Amendments. Any changes, additions, or deletions to the registration statement shall
14 be filed with the city clerk ~~within five (5) days of the effective date of the amendment.~~ no later than
15 the due date of the next bi-monthly activity report required under section 2-303.

16 ~~(e) The clerk shall notify covered officials within five working days whenever a new lobbyist~~
17 ~~registers or a previously registered lobbyist has terminated lobbyist status or added a new client or~~
18 ~~changed a business address, telephone number, or business email address.~~

19
20 **Sec. 2-303. – Bi-monthly financial activity report.**

21 ~~(a) Form of report; duty of city clerk.~~ The city clerk shall prepare forms for the bi-monthly
22 financial reports and other information required to be filed by this article and electronically furnish
23 such forms and information for use by persons subject to the requirements herein.

24 ~~(a)(b) Reports required.~~ A financial report shall be filed bi-monthly Each registered lobbyist
25 and lobbying entity shall file a bi-monthly activity report with the city clerk ~~by each registered lobbyist.~~
26 The report shall be filed no later than the fifteenth day of the succeeding month.

27 ~~(c) Information required.~~ The bi-monthly financial reports required hereunder shall contain
28 the following information for the reporting person:

29 ~~(1) The reporting person's full name, business or occupation, business mailing address,~~
30 ~~and business telephone number;~~

31 ~~(2) When a lobbyist reports an expenditure for lobbying a covered official, the following~~
32 ~~shall be listed by individual lobbyist:~~

1 a. ~~An itemized list and the estimated value of all gifts, entertainment, and direct or~~
2 ~~indirect expenditures to, on behalf of, or benefitting the covered official for lobbying purposes,~~
3 ~~including, but not limited to: monies, tickets, gratuities, transfers, loans, advances, deposits,~~
4 ~~promises, expressed or implied agreements, or any tangible or intangible thing of value of any~~
5 ~~amount;~~

6 b. ~~The name of the client or employer on whose behalf money is expended;~~

7 c. ~~The name and title of the covered official lobbied;~~

8 d. ~~The date lobbied and the legislative matters on which the official was lobbied;~~

9 and

10 (3) ~~The city clerk will make the completed financial reports available to the public online~~
11 ~~within a reasonable time, not to exceed seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the~~
12 ~~completed financial reports.~~

13 (b) Lobbying activity report. Each lobbyist and lobbying entity shall disclose the following
14 activities, if any, that occurred during the reporting period:

15 (1) Gifts. Any gift given or transferred to an elected official during the reporting period. For
16 each gift the report shall include:

17 a. An itemized description and the estimated value of all gifts, entertainment, or
18 direct or indirect expenditures to, on behalf of, or benefiting the elected official;

19 b. The name, title, and office of the elected official who received the gift;

20 c. The date the gift was given to the elected official; and

21 d. The name of the client or employer on whose behalf the gift was given, if any.

22 (2) Compensation.

23 a. An estimate of the compensation the lobbyist or lobbying entity received from
24 each client for lobbying during the reporting period, if any; and

25 b. For a lobbying entity that does not receive compensation from clients but
26 engages in lobbying on its own behalf, an estimate of the total compensation paid to lobbyists or
27 other employees for lobbying during the reporting period, if any.

28 (3) Legislative matters. Each lobbyist and lobbying entity shall report, for each legislative
29 matter lobbied:

30 a. The name of the client on whose behalf the lobbying was conducted;

31 b. The applicable covered official information for each covered official lobbied; and

1 c. A description of the legislative matter including the council bill, ordinance, or
2 resolution number, if known.

3 (4) Administrative matters. Each lobbyist and lobbying entity shall report, for each
4 administrative matter lobbied:

5 a. The name of the client on whose behalf the lobbying was conducted;

6 b. The applicable covered official information for each covered official lobbied; and

7 c. A description of the administrative matter.

8 (5) Grassroots lobbying expenditures. For each grassroots lobbying expenditure made
9 during the reporting period, the following information is required:

10 a. The date the expenditure was made or agreed to be made;

11 b. The amount of the expenditure;

12 c. The name of the person whom the registrant contracted with or otherwise
13 agreed to make the expenditure;

14 d. A description of the expenditure;

15 e. The specific legislative matter or administrative matter to which the expenditure
16 relates; and

17 f. If the expenditure was made on behalf of or directed by a client, the name of the
18 client or clients.

19 (c) Attestation and affirmation. The individual filing the report shall attest to the report's
20 accuracy. If there is no activity to report, the individual shall affirm that no reportable activity occurred
21 during the reporting period.

22
23 **Sec. 2-304. - Termination of lobbyist status.**

24 ~~A lobbyist may terminate his or her registration by filing an amendment pursuant to section 2-302(d).~~

25 (a) Termination of registration. A lobbyist or individual filing on behalf of a lobbyist or
26 lobbying entity may terminate a registration by filing an affirmation that the lobbyist or lobbying entity
27 is no longer engaged in lobbying on any legislative or administrative matter and does not intend to
28 make grassroots lobbying expenditures for the remainder of the calendar year.

29 (b) Re-registration required. A lobbyist or lobbying entity whose registration is terminated
30 may not engage in lobbying unless the lobbyist or lobbying entity re-registers and pays the applicable
31 registration fee.

1 (c) Term of registration. A registration is valid for the remainder of the calendar year in
2 which the registrant files, unless the registrant terminates the registration under subsection (a). All
3 registrations end on December 31 of the calendar year, and each registrant shall renew their
4 registration and pay the applicable fee for the following calendar year.

5
6 **Sec. 2-305. - Exceptions.**

7 (a) The provisions of this article shall not apply to:

8 (1) Any newspaper or other regularly published periodical, radio or television station
9 (including any individual who owns, publishes or is employed by any such newspaper, periodical,
10 radio or television station), which, in the ordinary course of business, publishes news items, editorials
11 or other comments or paid advertisements which directly or indirectly urge action upon municipal
12 decisions, if such newspaper, periodical, radio or television station or individual engages in no further
13 or other activities in connection with action upon such municipal decision;

14 ~~(2) Any individual communicating and/or or appearing on his own behalf, or appearing~~
15 ~~without compensation or consideration on behalf of an ad hoc committee, with respect to a legislative~~
16 ~~decision, in support thereof or opposition thereto, pursuant to a procedure mandated by state or~~
17 ~~federal law, or pursuant to any procedure mandated by local ordinance or rule or regulation for~~
18 ~~levying an assessment against real property for the construction or maintenance of an improvement,~~
19 ~~for any rezoning proposal, for any comprehensive plan or amendment thereto, or any proposal for a~~
20 ~~landmark designation.;~~

21 (2) Any government official from any unit of government, including other local, state, or
22 federal officials acting in their official capacity;

23 (3) Any person who is not a registered lobbyist and who limits their activities to
24 appearances to give testimony or provide information to city council or at a public hearing, or who
25 gives testimony or provides information at the request of a public official or employee.

26 (b) Lobbying does not include:

27 (1) The submission of a written request to a covered official for a revocable permit
28 pursuant to Charter section 3.2.7 or submission of a written request for vacation, easement, or
29 dedication of a public right-of-way; or

30 (2) Communications made by a person or business for the purpose of marketing,
31 promoting, or selling goods or services, provided that such communication does not include a
32 request for action on a legislative or administrative matter.

1 (3) Communications made in the course of an official procurement process, including the
2 submission of a bid, proposal, or other response to a publicly advertised solicitation, or any
3 communication otherwise permitted by that process.
4

5 **~~Sec. 2-306. -- Employment of unregistered person. Reserved.~~**

6 ~~No person shall employ for pay or any other consideration or agree to pay any consideration to an~~
7 ~~individual to engage in lobbying covered officials, unless such individual is a registered lobbyist, or~~
8 ~~agrees to register in accordance with section 2-302 herein.~~
9

10 **~~Sec. 2-307. -- Violation of this article. Reserved.~~**

11 ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to violate, or fail to comply with, the provisions of this article XIII~~
12 ~~of chapter 2 of the Revised Municipal Code. It shall also be unlawful to file any document provided~~
13 ~~for in this article which contains any materially false statement or material omission.~~
14

15 **~~Sec. 2-308. - Rules and regulations.~~**

16 ~~The city clerk may promulgate rules and regulations to define, interpret, implement and enforce the~~
17 ~~provisions of this article and to prevent the evasion of the requirements of this article. The city clerk~~
18 ~~shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide for show-cause hearings as required herein. In~~
19 ~~addition to the requirements for adopting rules and regulations established by article VI of chapter~~
20 ~~2 of the Revised Municipal Code, the The city clerk shall notify the council by a formal communication~~
21 ~~whenever a new rule is issued or an existing rule is revised.~~
22

23 **~~Sec. 2-309. - Powers of the city clerk; complaint procedures; enforcement; and penalties.~~**
24 **~~granting and revoking of certificates; barring from registration; reporting to city attorney for~~**
25 **~~criminal prosecution.~~**

26 (a) ~~Reserved.~~

27 (b) ~~On his or her own motion or on the verified complaint of any person, the city clerk shall~~
28 ~~investigate the activities of any person who is or who has allegedly engaged in lobbying and who~~
29 ~~may be in violation of any provision of this article.~~

30 (c) ~~The city clerk may apply to the district court of the City and County of Denver for the~~
31 ~~issuance of an order requiring any person who is believed by the city clerk to be engaging in lobbying~~

1 ~~without having registered as provided in section 2-302, to produce documentary evidence which is~~
2 ~~relevant or material to a determination of the matter.~~

3 ~~(d) After notice has been given and a hearing held, if the city clerk finds that a violation of this~~
4 ~~article has occurred, the clerk shall issue a cease and desist order setting forth the provisions that~~
5 ~~have been violated and the facts underlying the violation and shall:~~

6 ~~(1) Issue a written warning to the person who committed the violation; or~~

7 ~~(2) Revoke, or suspend for a maximum period of twelve (12) months, the certificate of~~
8 ~~registration required by section 2-302;~~

9 ~~(3) Bar a person from registration for a maximum period of twelve (12) months; or~~

10 ~~(4) Report the violation to the city attorney for consideration of criminal prosecution of the~~
11 ~~person as provided in sections 2-307 and 1-13 of the Revised Municipal Code.~~

12 ~~(e) The clerk shall notify covered officials within five working days regarding any action taken~~
13 ~~pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.~~

14 ~~(a) Complaints, hearing officer procedures, and final determination of complaint.~~

15 ~~(1) Citizen complaints. A resident of the city who believes a violation of this article has~~
16 ~~occurred may file a written complaint with the city clerk no later than sixty (60) days after the date on~~
17 ~~which the complainant either knew or should have known, by the exercise of reasonable diligence,~~
18 ~~of the alleged violation. Each complaint shall identify the person alleged to have committed a~~
19 ~~violation, the date of the violation, the facts giving rise to the violation, the provisions of this article~~
20 ~~alleged to have been violated, and any other information required by the city clerk. The city clerk~~
21 ~~shall not accept a complaint that fails to meet the requirements of this subsection.~~

22 ~~(2) Response and dismissal. If the complaint meets the requirements of subsection (a)(1),~~
23 ~~the city clerk shall notify the person alleged to have committed the violation (the "respondent") and~~
24 ~~order the respondent to file a response within thirty (30) days of such notification. If the complaint is~~
25 ~~filed by a resident, the city clerk may dismiss the complaint if:~~

26 ~~a. The respondent has cured the alleged violation;~~

27 ~~b. The respondent has already been issued an administrative citation related to~~
28 ~~the violation;~~

29 ~~c. Based on the information in the complaint and taking the facts stated therein as~~
30 ~~true, the complainant has not stated a plausible violation of this article; or~~

31 ~~d. Based on the information in the complaint and the response, there is sufficient~~
32 ~~information to find, by a preponderance of evidence, that no violation has been committed.~~

1 (3) Complaints filed by the city clerk.

2 a. The city clerk is authorized to file a complaint with an administrative hearing
3 officer appointed pursuant to this section, after providing notice of the violation, if the person alleged
4 to have committed the violation has failed to cure.

5 b. For any violation of this article other than a reporting violation, the city clerk may
6 issue a notice of violation by mail to the last known address of the person alleged to have violated
7 this article. The notice shall contain the identity of the person alleged to have committed a violation,
8 the date of the violation, the facts giving rise to the violation, and the provisions of this article alleged
9 to have been violated. Any person who has received a notice of an alleged violation shall have ten
10 (10) days from the mailing date of the notice to cure the violation. If the person fails to cure the
11 violation, the city clerk shall file a complaint in accordance with this subsection.

12 (4) Appointment and qualifications of hearing officer. Upon receipt of a response that does
13 not result in dismissal pursuant to subsection (b), or upon the filing of a complaint by the city clerk,
14 the city clerk shall appoint an administrative hearing officer to render a final decision regarding the
15 complaint. The administrative hearing officer may not be career service personnel of the city clerk's
16 office or otherwise work in a full-time capacity as an employee of the city clerk but shall be an agent
17 or employee of the city. Additionally, any person designated to serve as an administrative hearing
18 officer shall be subject to the standards of conduct set forth in the Colorado Code of Judicial Conduct
19 and subject to disqualification for bias, prejudice, interest, or for any other reason for which a judge
20 may be disqualified in a court of law.

21 (5) Final determination. Upon receipt of the complaint, response, and any other
22 information provided by the city clerk, the hearing officer shall schedule a date and time for a hearing
23 or, if there are no genuine issues of material fact in the complaint, render a final decision based on
24 written briefing by the parties. If the hearing officer determines that a hearing on the complaint is
25 necessary, the hearing shall be set no later than thirty (30) days from the mailing date of notice of
26 the hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing or upon review of the written briefs, the hearing officer
27 shall issue a written final decision determining whether the complainant has shown by a
28 preponderance of evidence that the respondent has committed a violation of this article. Upon finding
29 a violation, the hearing officer may assess a penalty as set forth in subsection (d). The final decision
30 together with the penalty may be appealed pursuant to Rule 106 of the Colorado Rules of Civil
31 Procedure.

1 (6) Authority of hearing officer. The hearing officer shall have the power to control the
2 hearing including, but not limited to, setting a schedule for written for briefings, ruling upon motions
3 and offers of proof, receiving and admitting evidence, limiting the presentation of evidence and cross-
4 examination so as to prevent repetitive and cumulative evidence or examination, and ordering any
5 person to be removed from the hearing. The hearing officer is entitled to examine any witness and
6 request the submission of additional evidence and arguments. At the request of any party to the
7 hearing, the hearing officer may subpoena witnesses, documents, and other evidence where the
8 attendance of the witness or the admission of evidence is deemed necessary to decide the issues
9 at the hearing. Any subpoena must be served by delivering a copy of it to the person named or by
10 sending it to them by first-class mail. All costs related to the subpoena, including witness and mileage
11 fees, shall be borne by the party requesting the subpoena. Any subpoena is enforceable by the
12 requesting party in the county court. The respondent and complainant may present evidence to the
13 hearing officer in the form of testimony, documents, rebuttal testimony, and opening and closing
14 statements.

15 (b) Late and deficient reports.

16 (1) The city clerk may issue an administrative citation only for the failure to file a report
17 required by this article or cure a deficient report. The procedures for enforcement, penalty, and
18 appeals of such an administrative citation shall be specified in this section.

19 (2) Prior to issuing an administrative citation for a deficient report, the city clerk shall notify
20 the point of contact disclosed for a registered lobbyist or lobbying entity by mail, telephone, or email
21 with respect to any deficiencies found. The notice shall include a description of each deficiency and
22 instructions on how to cure.

23 (3) Any person who has been issued an administrative citation for a reporting violation
24 may request that the city clerk waive or reduce the fine. Such request shall be filed within ten (10)
25 days of the due date of the fine. In determining whether to waive or reduce any such fine, the city
26 clerk may consider the requestor's history of delinquency, outstanding penalties, and any other
27 information provided by the requestor. The city clerk shall issue a written final decision granting or
28 denying the request within five (5) business days.

29 (c) Enforcement. The city clerk, or an administrative hearing officer rendering a final
30 decision, is authorized to assess civil penalties or refer matters to the city attorney for potential
31 criminal prosecution as provided in this section.

32 (d) Civil penalties.

1 (1) The penalty for a reporting violation shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day but shall not
2 exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per violation.

3 (2) The penalty for a violation of this article, other than a reporting violation, shall be within
4 the discretion of a hearing officer and may include any of the following remedies:

5 a. A written warning to the person who committed the violation;

6 b. Revocation or suspension, for not more than twelve (12) months, of the
7 lobbyist's or lobbying entity's certificate of registration;

8 c. The barring of a person or entity from registration for a maximum period of
9 twelve (12) months; or

10 d. A monetary penalty not to exceed nine hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$999.00)
11 per violation.

12 (e) *Criminal penalty.* It shall be unlawful for any person to violate, or fail to comply with,
13 the provisions of this article with the intent to hinder or prevent any disclosure required under this
14 article. It shall also be unlawful to knowingly file any document provided for in this article that contains
15 any materially false statement or material omission. Any such violation shall be subject to the
16 penalties authorized in section 1-13.

17
18 **Sec. 2-310.-- Notice. Reserved.**

19 ~~If, in any bi-monthly financial report filed under section 2-303, it is reported that more than fifty dollars~~
20 ~~(\$50.00) was spent while lobbying a covered official or that a lobbyist donated to a covered official~~
21 ~~any meals, tickets to events for which admission is charged, or reduced price admissions to events~~
22 ~~for which admission is charged, then the city clerk shall notify the covered official in writing within~~
23 ~~twenty-one (21) days. The city clerk shall also notify any covered official if a lobbyist reports any~~
24 ~~business or employment relationship involving that official within twenty-one (21) days. Following~~
25 ~~receipt of either notification, the covered official may, within fifteen (15) days, file a written statement~~
26 ~~containing the reasons why his or her name should not be included in the report. This statement~~
27 ~~shall be attached to and remain a part of the report.~~

28
29 **Sec. 2-311.-- Fees. Reserved.**

30 (a) ~~The clerk is authorized to establish fees and late filing penalties for:~~

31 ~~(1) Filing of lobbyist registration statements as required by subsection 2-302(b);~~

32 ~~(2) Amending lobbyist registration statements as required by subsection 2-302(d);~~

~~(3) Filing bi-monthly financial reports as required by subsection 2-303(b);~~

~~The clerk shall establish a fee schedule and make said schedule available to the public online.~~

Sec. 2-312. - Prohibited practices.

No person engaging in lobbying shall:

(1a) Attempt to influence any covered official by means of deceit or by threat of violence or economic or political reprisal against any person or property, with intent thereby to alter or affect such covered official's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning any legislative matter which is to be considered or performed by him or her or the agency or body of which he or she is a member;

(2b) Knowingly provide false information to any covered official as to any material fact pertaining to any legislative matter or administrative matter which is to be considered or performed by him or her or the agency or body of which he or she is a member;

(3c) Misappropriate or misuse city office supplies;

(4d) Use city reproduction machines without paying for such use;

(5e) Enter or use a covered official's office, phone, or parking space without explicit permission;

(6f) View, remove, or attempt to remove any document, record, or information in any form whatsoever, from any covered official's office, desk, files, reproduction machine, computer equipment, or computer files or from any other place or source without explicit permission;

~~(7) Lobby a covered official in any city building unless the lobbyist is wearing a clearly visible badge identifying his or her name and firm, and unless the lobbyist discloses to the covered official the person whom the lobbyist is representing if requested by the covered official; provided, however, that the penalty for failing to wear a clearly visible badge shall be a letter of reprimand from the clerk.~~

Sec. 2-313. – Post-service lobbying restriction.

No former elected official and no former covered official described in section 2-301(6)(b) shall engage in lobbying for compensation or any other thing of value for a period of twelve (12) months following termination of office or employment.

Sec. 2-314. – Training required.

1 A registered lobbyist or an individual responsible for filing the registration and reports for a lobbying
2 entity shall take the city clerk's approved training annually. The training shall be completed within
3 thirty (30) days of registration.

4
5 **Sec. 2-315. – Disclosure of lobbyist status.**

6 A lobbyist or any individual employed by a lobbying entity who engages in lobbying shall:

7 (a) When providing testimony or information at a public hearing, disclose on the record
8 that the individual is a registered lobbyist or is engaged in lobbying and identify any client on whose
9 behalf the individual is appearing; and

10 (b) When communicating orally or in writing with a covered official for the purpose of
11 lobbying, disclose at the time of the communication that the individual is a lobbyist or is engaged in
12 lobbying and identify any client on whose behalf the individual is acting.

13
14 **Section 2.** This ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

15
16 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: May 19, 2026

17 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: May 26, 2026 by Consent

18 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: _____

19 _____ - PRESIDENT

20 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____

21 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
22 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
23 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

24 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DENVER POST: _____; _____

25 PREPARED BY: Troy Bratton, Senior Assistant City Attorney DATE: May 28, 2026

26 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
27 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
28 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §
29 3.2.6 of the Charter.

30
31 Miko Ando, Denver City Attorney

32
33 BY: _____, Assistant City Attorney DATE: _____