

From: Jocelynn Pryor [<mailto:jocelynnpryor@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 9:54 AM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Public Comment Regarding: (22-043EC) Recommendation to discuss amendments proposed to the Lobbyists Ordinance (Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 2.08)

-EXTERNAL-

RE: Agenda Item

3. (22-043EC) Recommendation to discuss amendments proposed to the Lobbyists Ordinance (Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 2.08) by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Lobbyist Ordinance, including, community outreach options; and if appropriate, provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the same and dissolve the Lobbyist Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee.

Hi, My name is Jocelynn Pryor and I'm a concerned citizen in the 2nd district. My concern is that of the language in this new ordinance that that speaks to the new limitations for non-profits to have touch points with city officials. As you know, non-profits are here to serve the citizens of this city, be a collective voice of citizens and serve as an ear-piece for city officials. The Arts Council is a great example of that, in fact historically it was started by the city so that it could coordinate across the wide range of artists and arts institutions on behalf of the city including disseminating funding for the city. To put restrictions on this relationship would severely impact the good work that the Arts Council does for the citizens and arts institutions in this city. I'd encourage you to reconsider the language around non-profits within this ordinance. Thank you for your time today.

Jocelynn Pryor
jocelynnpryor@yahoo.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Proffit [<mailto:anne.proffit@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:18 AM

To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Ethics Commission 3/8/23 agenda item 3

-EXTERNAL-

The city's ethics commission should reject any attempt to make citizens register as lobbyists, when we simply are trying to make our lobbyist mayor and his cronies do their jobs.

Nonprofits have to register everything they do with the state and neighborhood groups have to band together to get any sort of access to those that wish to change our lives - city council, commissions, the mayor and city mis-manager - to benefit the few who already lobby and promote their desires, desires that usually have nothing to do with the needs of citizens.

Citizens should not have to pay to have their opinions heard. We are not lobbyists. We're just trying to make the mayor, clowncil and city mis-manager do their jobs to benefit us. We hire and fire most city positions. Our ethics are pure. Not so sure about our lobbyist mayor, our conflicted city manager (mis-manager), our clowncil members and even you.

We need real ethics in government; punishing the public for having opinions by making them pay to address malfeasances by those "in power" is not right.

Anne Proffit
The Lafayette



From: blair@bixbyknollsinfo.com <blair@bixbyknollsinfo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2023 3:01 PM

To: Heather Van Wijk <Heather.VanWijk@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Cc: Holly Unruh <Holly.Unruh@longbeach.gov>

Subject: letter to Ethics Commission

-EXTERNAL-

Please see attached letter to be added to the record for today's Ethics Commission meeting. Thank you,



Executive Director


BLAIR COHN

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March 8, 2023

Long Beach Ethics Commission

RE: Proposed Changes to Long Beach Lobbyist Ordinance (LBMC Ch. 2.08)

Dear Chair Morales and Honorable Members of the Ethics Commission,

Please accept this correspondence on behalf of the Bixby Knoll Business Improvement Association and enter it into the public record for the Ethics Commission meeting scheduled for March 8, 2023, opposing the proposed amendments to the Lobbyists Ordinance (Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 2.08) by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Lobbyists Ordinance

This issue was brought to our attention just recently which certainly seems to be lacking any outreach and research. I am sure you are aware that there are ten business improvement districts (BIDs) in Long Beach, there are BID leaders, and there is the Council of Business Associations which has met for the past 13 years and continues to meet every other week. I would have thought that the commission would have reached out to any of us, or to COBA, to discuss this issue and dig deeper about any undue burdens or unintended consequences your proposed changes would create.

As an Economic Development Commissioner, I sat in numerous meetings where our commission had reached out to individuals across many sectors to gather feedback on the minimum wage increase issue, the Economic Development Blueprint, and other heavy issues before making any recommendations to the city council. Again, there appears to be an unwarranted lack of outreach on behalf of this commission to fully understand the issue and its impacts on BIDs and non-profits.

The BIDs do the important work of maintaining clean and safe districts, while focusing on marketing, and economic/community development. Combined efforts of the BIDs contribute to the overall success of the city. Our contacts with the city are almost daily as a normal function of our organizations to address the issues with our operations or in how we are contributing to our communities, meeting our mission, and the city as a whole. How, when we have contracts/agreements with the city, can our true functions be considered lobbyist efforts?

Most BIDs have either part-time staff, are short on staff, or are volunteer based organizations. The amount of work to report each/every contact with the city would derail the work needing to be done.



BIDs hold open meetings to our membership and the public, submit reports to Economic Development and go through an annual renewal process with city council. There is oversight and governance to the BIDs.

And what about the hundreds of non-profit organizations in this city (large and small), or neighborhood organizations trying to do good and meet their missions?

What type of city staff will it take to sift through and read the mountain of correspondence?

For those of you who currently volunteer for, advise, or work with non-profits, I am confused as to the lack of foresight of the burden posed upon these organizations. What a total disincentive to form new business improvement districts in the underserved areas of the city that have finally begun efforts to become organized and create vibrant communities of their own.

Please consider keeping the business improvement districts exempt from this proposed change in the lobbyist ordinance.

Thank you,
Blair Cohn
Executive Director