

**Common Council Organization Committee Meeting
Monday, August 8, 2005 at 4:30 pm.
Submitted as testimony
(returning to town at the approximate time of meeting)**

This is my fourth testimonial regarding the proposed Lobbying Ordinance in the past few months. After some tedious times, I believe that the process is going in the direction it was initially intended.....to make our city government transparent in regards to large projects and efforts that would effect our city's legacy.....I would like to acknowledge the dedication and participation of city staff, the alders and the private sector, thru DMI and the Chamber of Commerce. I would like to commend DMI's position as stated on their website on Tuesday, August 2.

With this in mind, may I make some important points:

- With the Supreme Court's recent ruling and change on eminent domain, this ordinance is more important than ever, to maintain the rights of our citizenry.**
- Please keep the ordinance in plain language were the public is truly served. At one point we had 13 pages, with contradictions and Latin words. Lawyers had a difficult time with its interpretation.**
- State in the text the exemption of volunteers who are representing neighborhood associations and non-profits. Alders Verveer and Weber had addressed this and it was initially approved by the city attorney at a city council meeting.**
- Re-edit the forms the public and lobbyists use for public testimonies at the City Council meetings. For many years I have doubted myself when registering for public comment and was unsure if I interpreted the information correctly. Many others have expressed the same concern. This came to full light when James Gardner's name appeared on a list of offenders when it was accidentally discovered during a CCOC meeting that he was actually representing the neighborhood and not Sergenian's. I would be more than happy to work with city staff on a citizen-friendly form.**
- If needed, consider this definition of a lobbyist....."anyone whose day to day source of income and activities is influencing a public official or a legislative group on a specific project."**

Thank you, Mary Lang Sollinger.....257-2889/mlsollinger@charter.net