

September 6, 2005

To: CCOC Members

FROM: David J. Cieslewicz, Mayor  
Paul Van Rooy, Council President  
Ald. Noel Radomski, District 19  
Jennifer Alexander, Executive Director, Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce  
Susan Schmitz, Executive Director, Downtown Madison, Inc.  
James Garner, Small Business Advisory Council and local business owner

SUBJECT: Lobbying Ordinance

One year ago today, a subcommittee of the Common Council Organizational Committee began a review of the city's lobbying ordinance. After many meetings and public hearings, a year of acrimonious debate and more than 70 lobbying complaints, we present to you a solid compromise that is clear, fair, and logical. This proposal strikes the right balance between citizens' right to petition their government and the public's right to know who is communicating with City officials on significant financial decisions in city government.

The compromise exempts Madison-based business owners and their employees from the ordinance; this compromise gives them the same rights as other citizens when it comes to petitioning their government and getting involved in debates on city policies. As local taxpayers, they deserve this equal treatment.

Anyone who seeks more than \$10,000 in city assistance or approval of a significant development project must register with the City Clerk and report their expenditures twice a year. Third-party paid lobbyists, employees of any business or non-profit whose primary job duties are to lobby, and employees of trade associations or public policy advocacy organizations are covered under the ordinance.

We believe this agreement is carefully balanced, and we will support it in its entirety.

We believe this agreement is fair. It preserves the voice of small business in local affairs while still capturing paid professional lobbyists.

We believe this agreement represents progress. After months of stagnant debate, we are ready to move forward, put this issue to rest and tackle other significant issues that have a far greater impact on the daily lives and budgets of Madison residents.

We encourage support of this agreement without substantive changes.

Thank you.

cc: All Alders