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Date: 6/21/2005 3:32:03 PM
Subject: Lobbying Ordinance

Since the July 13 meeting of the CCOC on this subject conflicts with regularly scheduled 5:PM Affordable Housing Subcommittee meeting, I submit to you my thoughts on the Lobbying Ordinance. Please include them in the proceedings

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I support the public's interest in knowing attempts to influence administrative and legislative matters, however I do not believe the Lobbying Ordinance will be effective either in its current form nor as proposed to amended. They are both fundamentally flawed in that they ask the foxes to self report their stalking of the chickens.

The current proposal which also asks for principals to report time and expenses is onerous and nonsensical; it does not measure the actions we're interested in, nor does it provide meaningful comparative data: what do you gain from knowing Joseph Freed Company's mileage, meals and time involved in traveling from Illinois to Madison to obtain permits for the Hilldale redevelopment and my Metro fare and time going downtown to City Hall to appear on behalf of my client?

As a practical alternative, since interested parties already are required to register appearances before the Common Council, Plan Commission, and Urban Design Commission there is a ready basis for the City to construct a register of contacts. I propose that all City officials (alderpersons and staff) add to it any contacts that attempt to influence administrative and legislative matters.

Finally, and specifically, whatever you decide please exempt architects from registration and reporting requirements as they practice. Remember, we architects have our licenses at risk if false statements or less-than-ethical behavior are involved in our appearances.