



SMART GROWTH MADISON

2810 Crossroads Drive • Suite 1900L • Madison, WI 53718
(608) 663-2005 phone • (608) 663-2008 fax

September 1, 2005

TO: CCOC members
FROM: Delora Newton, Executive Director
RE: Lobbying ordinance – 3rd substitute

At the August 8, 2005 meeting, it was apparent that many CCOC members had questions and concerns about the 3rd substitute to the lobbying ordinance. Smart Growth Madison asks you to support several amendments which will address several issues raised by speakers at the last meeting.

- 1) All design professionals should be exempt from lobbying requirements when offering services which only their profession may provide per state law. The current version only exempts architects.
- 2) All public testimony should be exempt from lobbying requirements as it is being done with full public knowledge and disclosure. The current version only exempts those who register, but do not speak.
- 3) Registration reports should be based on time spent lobbying instead of dollars spent lobbying. This will provide meaningful information that will allow a direct comparison of the time various entities spend lobbying. Because different individual and companies have different operating costs, using money spent as the reporting basis does not provide meaningful information to the public – especially if the services provided by design professionals must be included in lobbying calculations.
- 4) The 10,000 sq ft threshold for non-residential buildings is too low. Many private businesses such as doctors and dentists build office space of this size. We doubt that majority of council members wish to define them as lobbyists and suggest using a 40,000 sq ft threshold instead as this is the number used in the big box ordinance. We make this suggestion even though we object to the use of any building size as the trigger for lobbying registration and reporting. However, using a larger size will avoid forcing a small business from getting caught in the red-tape of lobbyist registration.

I have previously provided you with detailed information on these points and will not repeat them at this time. However, please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.