

# ORDINANCE NO. 1711

(Establishes Requirements for Lobbyists)

The City Council of the City of Henderson declares that the operation of responsible representative government requires that the fullest opportunity be afforded to the people to petition their local government for the redress of grievances and to express freely to individual members of the City Council their opinions on legislation. The City Council also declares that, in order to prevent corruption and/or the appearance of corruption, spawned by real or reasonably imagined coercive influence of lobbyists, contacts by lobbyists with members of the City Council should be made a matter of public record.

## 1. Definitions.

### (a) "Lobbyist" means, except as limited by subsection (b), a person who:

- (1) Appears in the Planning or City Council Chambers or any other building in which the Planning Commission or the City Council, or any of their standing committees, hold meetings; and
- (2) Communicates directly with a member of the Planning Commission or City Council on behalf of a business entity to influence legislative action whether or not any compensation is received for the communication.

### (b) "Lobbyist" does not include:

- (1) Persons who confine their activities to formal appearances before the Planning Commission or City Council and who clearly identify themselves and the interest or interests for whom they are testifying.
- (2) Employees of bona fide news medium who meet the definition of "lobbyist" only in the course of their professional duties and who contact members of the Planning Commission or City Council for the sole purpose of carrying out their news-gathering function.
- (3) Employees of departments or divisions of municipal government who appear before the Planning Commission or City Council only to explain the effect of legislation related to their departments or divisions.
- (4) Public officers who confine their lobbying activities to issues directly related to the scope of the office to which they were elected.
- (5) Persons who contact the Mayor or members of the City Council who are elected from the ward in which they reside.

## 2. Lobbying.

### (a) Registration - Time for filing.

Every person who acts as a lobbyist shall complete a registration statement with the City Clerk for each personal communication with a public officer. If the communication occurs at City Hall, the registration form must be filed with the City Clerk the same day the communication occurs. If the communication occurs at a place other than City Hall, the registration form must be filed with the City Clerk within five working days of the communication or before the next scheduled City Council meeting. Registration may be accomplished by faxing your form to 702-267-1401.

### (b) Registration - Form for filing.

The registration form shall contain the following information:

- (1) The lobbyist's full name, permanent address, place of business and temporary address while lobbying;
- (2) The full name and complete address of each person, if any, by whom the lobbyist is retained or employed or on whose behalf the registrant appears;
- (3) A description of the principal areas of interest on which the lobbyist expects to lobby; and
- (4) The name of the member of the City Council with whom the lobbyist communicates.

### (c) Identification Badge

The City Clerk shall furnish an appropriate identification badge to each lobbyist who files a registration statement under this subsection. The identification badge must be worn by the lobbyist whenever he or she is engaged in lobbying activity with a public officer.

## (d) Annual Permits

Persons who engage in lobbying activity on a regular basis may obtain an annual badge from the City Clerk who shall register the lobbyist's full name, permanent address, place of business and temporary address while lobbying. Thereafter, the lobbyist need only file a registration form statement containing the lobbyist's name and information required in subsection (b)(2) through (b)(4).

## 3. Violations and Penalties.

Any person who willfully and knowingly violates any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.



### Temporary Badges

The lobbyist registration form must be completed for each communication with a member of the City Council or Planning Commission and submitted to the City Clerk in order to obtain a "Lobbyist" badge which must be returned to the Clerk's office.

### Permanent Badges

Lobbyists who are registered annually need to complete Section 2 of the lobbyist form only once. Lobbyists may also submit their completed form by fax to the City Clerk's office at 267-1401. The form can be accessed on the City's web site. [www.cityofhenderson.com/clerk/clerk.html](http://www.cityofhenderson.com/clerk/clerk.html)

All annual badges expire on December 31st of each year and must be renewed with the City Clerk's Office.

*\*The completed registration form is a public document and shall be maintained in the Office of the City Clerk.*