

NOTICE TO CITY LOBBYISTS

In December 2015, the Broward County Commission amended its ethics ordinance. The most significant changes for those who lobby County and municipal governments in Broward County involve accepting gifts and reporting lobbying contacts. As far as gifts are concerned, a lobbyist is now permitted to give a gift to a local elected official or his/her relatives so long as the gift does not exceed \$5.00. However, a lobbyist is not bound by the \$5.00 cap if an item is given to an elected official to express condolences or sympathy in connection with the death, significant injury or illness of an elected official or the official's immediate family. Additionally, an elected official may accept a nonalcoholic beverage from a lobbyist regardless of value and also accept tickets from a lobbyist to a charitable event provided such tickets are available for purchase by the general public. Please understand that state law prohibits a lobbyist or a principal of a lobbyist from giving a gift valued at more than \$100 to an elected official.

Commencing on April 1, 2016, a lobbyist will be responsible for reporting all contacts with the City's elected officials no matter the location of the contact if lobbying activity occurs. Under the new rules, the contact form must be completed within three (3) business days after the lobbying activity occurs. The requirement to file a contact form is not limited to reporting in-person or face-to-face meetings, but also includes reporting telephone calls, emails or any other modes of communications used to lobby the City's elected officials. Please be advised that communications with elected officials where no lobbying has occurred do not have to be reported.

Lastly, all local governments in Broward County are mandated under the revised rules to implement an online lobbying contact log system or utilize a contact log system developed by the Broward League of Cities by April 1, 2016. Until the Broward League of Cities has an operational online lobbying contact log system, all Cooper City lobbyists should use the City's online system to report contacts. The forms are available on the city's website located at <http://www.coopercityfl.org/index.asp?Type=QUICKFORM&SEC={2C52FCD8-F779-4BA7-988B-C0C4B615C596}>.

If you have any questions concerning the abovementioned changes, please contact Susan Poling, City Clerk, at 954-434-4300 x #291 or by email: susanp@coopercityfl.org.