

ORDINANCE NO.: 2004-094

*Amending the 1998 Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina,  
Chapter 2, Administration, to add Article VI, Lobbyist*

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 15th day of December, 2004, that the 1998 Code of Ordinances of The City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 2, Administration, is amended to add Article VI, Lobbyist to read as follows:

**ARTICLE VI. LOBBYIST**

**Sec. 2-301. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

*Lobbying* means promoting or opposing through direct communication with city council members:

- (1) the introduction or enactment of an ordinance or resolution; or
- (2) the awarding of a City contract;

Lobbying does not include the activities of a member of city council, city staff or any public official with regard to their public duties.

*Lobbyist* means any person who is employed or retained, with compensation, by another person to lobby city council. Lobbyist does not include:

- (1) an individual who receives no compensation from another person to engage in lobbying.
- (2) a person who expresses a personal opinion, or discusses a constituent matter in relation to city services, or any other matter in which the person is not receiving compensation to lobby.
- (3) a person who is a full-time, permanent employee of a governmental agency, a not-for-profit corporation, or a company and is lobbying as a result of his or her employment with such agency, not-for-profit corporation or company.

**Sec. 2-302. Registration of lobbyists.**

(a) Any person who acts as a lobbyist must, within fifteen days of being employed or retained as a lobbyist, register with the city clerk.

(b) The registration must be in a form approved by the city council that includes only the name and business address of the lobbyist, the name and business address of the person or entity who compensates the lobbyist, and the issue or matter for which the

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lobbyist has been retained. A separate form shall be submitted for each issue or matter and each person or entity who compensates the lobbyist .

(c) Any lobbyist who is employed by the city or has contracts with the city, must seek approval by city council to be a lobbyist for other clients so long as he is employed or under contract.

**Sec. 2-303. Prohibited acts.**

(a) A lobbyist or a person acting on behalf of a lobbyist shall not offer, facilitate or provide to or on behalf of a City Council Member or City employee, any of the following that exceeds a total yearly value of \$25.00: lodging; transportation; entertainment; food; meals; beverages; money or any other thing of value or contributions as defined in §8-13-1300(7) of the South Carolina Code.

(b) No member of City Council or any City employee, shall knowingly solicit or accept, for his or her personal use or benefit, from any person known to be a lobbyist any of the following that exceeds a total yearly value of \$25.00: lodging; transportation; entertainment; food; meals; beverages; money or any other thing of value or contributions as defined in §8-13-1300(7) of the South Carolina Code. This prohibition shall not apply to any function to which all members of City Council are invited.

(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to the rendering of emergency assistance given gratuitously and in good faith by a lobbyist.

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**Sec. 2-304. Penalties.**

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be punished in accordance with Sec. 1-5 of this Code.

This ordinance is effective as of final reading.

Requested by:

Mayor Robert D. Coble \_\_\_\_\_



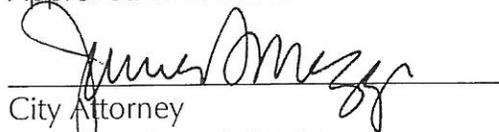
MAYOR

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 12/8/2004

Final Reading: 12/15/2004