#### **CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION**

#### ARTICLE X. LOBBYING

## Sec. 2-390. Definitions.

<u>Compensation</u> means monetary consideration of any kind, either received or expected, including but not limited to, salary, payment, retainer, commission, consideration of any type, forbearance, forgiveness or any combination thereof. For purposes of this section, compensation shall only include something of monetary value.

Expenditure means the same as defined in Section 112.3215, Florida Statutes.

Lobbyist with any member of City Commission, Staff Decision Maker or board member wherein there is communicated, disclosed or discussed any matter which is or may be pending before

City commission, Staff Decision Maker or the respective board in order to influence the action or inaction of the City commission, Staff Decision Maker or the respective board. The definition of lobbying includes appearances before City Commission and boards but does not include the act of filing an application on behalf of or as authorized agent for another.

Lobbyist means any person who shall engage in lobbying as defined herein for compensation for (1) an entity other than his or her employer; or (2) for any entity including his or her employer if a principal function of his or her position is lobbying or governmental relations.

Principal means the person, firm, corporation, or other entity that performs lobbying activity on behalf of itself or that has designated, employed, or retained a lobbyist to lobby on its behalf. The term "principal" also includes the person, firm, corporation, or other entity

receiving the benefit of the lobbying effort and on whose behalf the lobbyist is lobbying, even if the lobbyist is retained, engaged, or employed by a third-party for such purposes.

<u>Staff Decision Makers</u> means the following employees of the City of Deltona who have been delegated final decision making authority by ordinance or administrative policy to make decisions on behalf of the City, including but not limited to: City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Building Official, City Engineer, Fire Marshall, Planning Director, Public Works <u>Director</u>.

- Sec. 2-391. Registration; fee; disclosure requirements; log of registered lobbyists; exemptions from payment of fee.
- (a) A person may not lobby a city official, a city board member, the city manager, or city staff, until such person has registered as a lobbyist with the city clerk. Such registration shall be due within five business days of being retained as a lobbyist by a principal, prior to engaging in any type of lobbying activities, and shall be renewed on a yearly basis thereafter. The annual registration fee for each lobbyist shall be \$525.00 as an initial registration fee, plus an additional fee of \$105.00 for each principal represented for each issue lobbied on behalf of any one principal, or as otherwise may be established by the City Commission via Resolution in the Fee Schedule. The registration fees required by this section shall be deposited by the city clerk into a separate account and shall be expended for purposes of recording, transcription, administration, and/or any other associated costs incurred in maintaining these records for availability to the public. Regardless of the date

- of the initial registration, all lobbyists' registrations shall expire December 31 of each calendar year, and shall be renewed on a calendar year basis.
- (c) Within five business days of being retained as a lobbyist or before engaging in any lobbying activities, whichever comes first, every person required to register as a lobbyist shall:
  - (1) Register on forms prepared by the city clerk;
  - (2) Pay an initial registration fee, plus an additional fee for each principal represented

    and for each issue the lobbyist has been retained to lobby on behalf of any one

    principal, as provided in the Fee Schedule; and
  - (3) Disclose, under oath, the following information:
    - a. Lobbyist's name and business address;
    - b. Name and business address of each principal represented;
    - c. The specific issue on which he or she has been retained to lobby; and
    - d. If the lobbyist represents a corporation, partnership or trust, the name and business address of the chief officer, partner or beneficiary of the corporation, partnership or trust and the names and addresses of all persons holding, directly or indirectly, at least five percent ownership interest in said corporation, partnership or trust. A separate registration form shall be filed by the lobbyist and an additional fee of \$105.00, or as otherwise may be established by the City Commission via Resolution in the Fee Schedule, shall be paid for each principal represented and for each issue the lobbyist has been retained to lobby on behalf

of any one principal. Such issue shall be described with as much detail as is practical, including, though not limited to: a specific description (where applicable) of a pending request for proposals, invitation to bid, ordinance, resolution, or a given item on the agenda. The city clerk or the clerk's designee shall reject any registration statement which does not provide a clear description of the specific issue on which such lobbyist has been retained to lobby.

- e. For an initial registration, the a lobbyist shall disclose all lobbying activity conducted in the City of Deltona for the previous two (2) calendar years.
- (d) In addition, every registrant shall be required to state under oath the existence of any direct or indirect business association, partnership, or financial relationship with the mayor, any member of the city commission, any member of a city board, the city manager, or a member of the city staff before whom he or she lobbies, or intends to lobby.
- (e) The city clerk shall maintain a log, which shall be updated on a quarterly basis by April 15,

  July 15, October 15 and January 15 of each year, reflecting the lobbyist registrations filed

  in accordance with this section and shall be distributed to the mayor, the city commission,
  and the city manager.
- (f) The mayor, all members of the city commission, all members of city boards, the city manager, and city staff shall be diligent to ascertain that persons required to register pursuant to this section have complied, and if necessary, request a record of compliance from the city clerk. The mayor, members of the city commission, of city boards, the city

- manager, and city staff may not knowingly permit a person who is not registered pursuant to this section to lobby.
- (g) Each person who withdraws as a lobbyist for a particular principal shall file an appropriate

  notice of withdrawal concerning representation for that principal. There shall be no fee

  required for filing a notice of withdrawal.
- (h) The validity of any action or determination of the city commission or any other city board or committee shall not be affected by the failure of any person to comply with the provisions of this section.
- (i) The following persons shall be required to register but will be exempt from paying the registration fee:
  - (1) A person who, pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, has been designated and is so recognized by the city as a representative of a collective bargaining unit composed of city employees;
  - (2) Employees or representatives of any federal, state, county, municipal or independent authority discussing the business of their government or authority;
  - (3) An elected official or government employee acting in his official capacity or in connection with his job responsibilities;
  - (4) Law enforcement personnel conducting an active investigation;
  - (5) Persons or representatives of organizations contacted by the city commission member when such contact is initiated by the member;

- (6) A person who appears under compulsion or subpoena by the city commission, board or staff member of a board;
- (7) Any person in contractual privity with the City who appears only in his or her official contractual capacity in connection with the performance of the current contract.
- (j) All registration forms shall be open to the public upon the filing thereof.

# Sec. 2-392. Lobbying contact logs.

- (a) <u>City Commissioners and Staff Decisionmakers shall be responsible for maintaining a</u> written log which documents contact with Lobbyists outside of a duly noticed public meeting. The log shall, at a minimum, reflect the name of the lobbyist, the date of the oral lobbying communication or lobbying meeting, and the subject matter discussed.
- (b) Logs shall be filed with the city clerk on a quarterly basis by April 15, July 15, October 15

  and January 15 of each year, as well as at the conclusion of their final term in office for a

  City Commissioner or upon conclusion of their employment for a Staff Decisionmaker.
- (c) In no event shall failure to comply with this Section subject City Commissioners or Staff

  Decisionmakers to penalties under this Code.

# Sec. 2-393. Annual expenditures report.

A lobbyist shall annually submit to the city clerk's office a signed statement under oath, as provided herein, listing all lobbying expenditures and the sources from which funds for making lobbying expenditures have come. The lobbying expenditures shall include, but not be limited to: meals, entertainment, travel, lodging, and gifts for public officers and employees for the

expenses for lodging, meals, travel, salary, and office expenses. Such statement of expenditures for the preceding calendar year, entitled "Annual Expenditures Report" shall be due on January 15 of each year. Such statement shall be rendered on the form provided by the city clerk's office and shall be open to public inspection. If the lobbyist had no expenditures in the preceding calendar year, then he or she shall not be required to submit an annual expenditures report.

## Sec. 2-394. Penalties for violations.

- (a) Any lobbyist who fails to file the annual expenditures report by the January 15 deadline each calendar year shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00 per day for reports filed after the due date.
- (b) Upon verification of a lobbyist's failure to file the annual expenditures report, the city clerk shall notify the lobbyist by certified mail that the annual expenditures report must be filed within five business days following receipt of the notice. The name of any lobbyist who fails to comply with said requirement shall be automatically removed from the list of active lobbyists. Should said person wish to re-register as a lobbyist, he or she shall submit a new registration form accompanied by a \$525.00 registration fee, or such fee as otherwise established by the City Commission via Resolution in the Fee Schedule, plus any and all outstanding fines accrued prior to re-registration.
- (c) The city clerk shall submit a report to the city commission as to those lobbyists who have failed to comply with registration and/or the annual filing requirement of this section.

- (d) Whenever a violation of this article exists, the city commission may publicly reprimand,

  censure and/or prohibit such lobbyist from lobbying before the city for a period of up to

  but not to exceed two (2) years.
- (e) The penalties provided in this section are cumulative in nature. Nothing contained in this article shall prevent the city from pursuing any other remedies available to the city under the city's Code and/or state law for the enforcement of its ordinances.