**COUNCIL MEMORANDUM**

Council Meeting Date: November 12, 2015

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEM**

**SPONSOR:** Ashton J. Hayward, III, Mayor

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance Creating a Lobbyist Registration Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That City Council adopt the proposed ordinance creating Section 2-7-1 through 2-7-4 of the Code of the City of Pensacola to create a Lobbyist Registration Program.

**AGENDA:** \_\_X\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Consent

Hearing Required: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Quasi-Judicial \_\_\_\_\_ No Hearing Required \_\_X\_\_\_

**SUMMARY:**

Over the past several years, Mayor Hayward and the City Council have worked together to ensure greater transparency in City government, including the adoption of a Code of Ethics, the publication of monthly financial reports, and an overhaul of the City’s public records function.

The proposed ordinance would require lobbyists to register with the City Clerk on an annual basis, to disclose any direct business associations with any City Council member or the Mayor, and to verbally disclose their status as a lobbyist and identify the principal on behalf of whom they are lobbying when addressing the City Council or other decision-making body. The ordinance would also prohibit lobbyists from knowingly making false statements when lobbying. Adopting such a program would ensure greater transparency and provide citizens, as well as the Mayor and City Council members, with more information throughout the decision-making process.

Many cities in Florida have established successful lobbyist registration programs, and the proposed ordinance was modeled after similar ordinances throughout the state, including those adopted by the cities of Tallahassee and West Palm Beach, as well as Broward County.

**PRIOR ACTION:**

None

**FUNDING:**

None

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

None

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Richard Barker, Jr., CFO, Interim City Administrator

Tamara Fountain, Chief Operations Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Ordinance

**PRESENTATION:**

None