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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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June 17, 2005

Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.  
(414) 286-3771  
License Division  
(414) 286-2238

## Lobbyist Registration Ordinance Takes Effect July 1

A July 1 deadline looms for those who engage in lobbying at City Hall.

In order to comply with a city ordinance approved by the Common Council in December 2004 and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett, effective July 1 lobbyists must register with the City Clerk's License Division. More information is available at [www.milwaukee.gov/lobby](http://www.milwaukee.gov/lobby) or by calling **414-286-2238**.

The ordinance creates a system for the registration and regulation of lobbyists. It requires lobbyists to register and disclose information about who they represent and how much time and money they spend on their contacts with Common Council members, the Mayor, and other city officials.

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., who co-sponsored the legislation that created the ordinance, said the new regulations help "create more openness and transparency" in city government, enabling residents to more closely scrutinize lobbying activities. "The people of Milwaukee want their business conducted in the open and above board, and they should be able to easily find out who is trying to sway their elected city officials and others in city government, and this measure does that," Ald. Hines said.

Under the ordinance, lobbying is defined as any attempt to influence legislative or administrative action by oral or written communication with any city official. Some key provisions of the ordinance:

**-More-**

## **Lobbyist Registration Effective July 1/ADD ONE**

- Applies to persons who spend 2 or more hours lobbying on an issue in a 6-month period.
- Lobbyists must pay a \$125 registration fee for each person or firm they represent.
- Applies to Common Council actions and administrative actions by other city officials.
- Those who employ lobbyists must file a statement every 6 months disclosing the amount of money and other resources expended for lobbying purposes as well as the matters sought to be influenced.
- Practices of lobbyists and their employers that are prohibited are identified and violations are made enforceable by the City Attorney.

Ald. Michael S. D'Amato, the primary sponsor of the legislation that created the ordinance, said the lobbyist registration will put power – in the form of information available 24-7 on the city's Web site – into the hands of the average citizen “This ordinance is a victory for the citizens of Milwaukee and for their ability to determine on their own who is spending money to influence city policy,” said Ald. D'Amato, chair of the council's Judiciary & Legislation and Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committees.

All material filed by lobbyists is a public record, and will be posted on the city Web site at [www.milwaukee.gov/lobby](http://www.milwaukee.gov/lobby).