



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the City Attorney's Office**

Date: December 13, 2007
To: Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Subject: Ethics Officer Report Pursuant To Minneapolis City Ordinance § 15.40(b)(4)

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file this report

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Approved by: Jay M. Heffern
Jay M. Heffern
City Attorney

Presenter in Committee: Gene Ranieri, Intergovernmental Relations Director
Susan L. Trammell, Assistant City Attorney and Ethics Officer

Report:

Minneapolis Code of Ethics, Section 15.40(b)(4) requires that the Ethics Officer report to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee the projects, if any, that create or may create a professional conflict of interest for the City's proposed lobbyists. The Ethics Ordinance, § 15.40(b)(4) defines professional conflict of interest as "a situation where the interests of a principal of the lobbyist are or may be adverse to the interests of the city."

The Intergovernmental Relations Department (IGR) has informed the Ethics Officer of the City's intention to enter into lobbying contracts for the 2008 legislative sessions with Bill Barnhart, Doug Franzen and John Kaul. IGR provided a list of the lobbyists' principals and the projects on which the lobbyists expected to lobby on the principal's behalf. Additionally, on December 12, 2007, a check of lobbyist filings on the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board's website was conducted and the proposed lobbyists' principals and principals' projects were reviewed.

The following chart describes the situations where the interests of the City may be adverse to those of the lobbyists and/or the lobbyists' principals:

LOBBYIST	PRINCIPAL	STATED PROJECT	POTENTIAL CONFLICT IF SUBJECT MATTER EXTENDS TO:
Doug Franzen	Minnesota Cable Communications Association	Communications	Wireless internet and/or cable communication franchises
John Kaul, Jr.	Creative Outdoor Advertising	Courtesy bus benches	Bill board regulations

IGR is aware of these potential conflicts and will be monitoring the potential for conflicts throughout the 2008 legislative sessions. IGR anticipates that additional lobbyists may be retained prior to or during 2008 legislative sessions. The Ethics Officer will provide supplemental report(s) as needed to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.