**Talking points in support of the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance Reforms including the Raman amendment**

[**Council File 22-0560**](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0560)

[**Recommendations from Ethics Commission**](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0560_misc_5-05-22.pdf')

[**Amendment by Raman and Bonin**](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0560_misc_10-25-22.pdf)

**Monday 2 pm February 6, 2022**

**The meeting will be virtual only and the log in details are: 1 669 254 5252 and use Meeting ID No. 160 151 5313 and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.  As soon as you hear the meeting begin press \*9 to raise your hand.  It is item 1 on the agenda.   You will be given 1 minute if you ask to speak on item 1, more time if you request all items.**

* **The most important talking point is that we support the Raman amendment and all that it accomplishes. It addresses the non profit issue, the BID issue, and the lobbyist identification issue.**
* 45 Neighborhood Councils have passed statements of support
  + at least one neighborhood council in each council district supports.
  + BONC, LANCC, and the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates have all supported these reforms
  + There is a mandate from the Public and from Neighborhood Councils to pass strong lobbying reforms.
* The public deserves transparency and deserves to know if a lobbyist is speaking before a neighborhood council, commission, or city council
* Every other major city utilizes a clear and objective compensation based model for determining who is a lobbyist.
* We need the Raman amendment because a blanket exemption for small non-profits invites special interests to create and utilize front groups to engage in up to nearly $400k worth of lobbying, free from regulation under the MLO.  Real reform will be illusory if we simply close one loophole while creating a new one.
* City Council has twice let lobbying reforms brought forth by the ethics commission die and the municipal lobbying ordinance has not been comprehensively updated since 1994.
* Lobbying has been involved in LA’s ongoing ethics scandals such as the Jose Huizar scandal  <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-25/lobbyist-morrie-goldman-guilty-plea>
* We support the Raman amendment which calls for lobbyist identification and addresses the non profit exemption issue.
* Ethics has an enforceability issue due to the time and money standard of reporting.  Lobbyists currently can skirt registration and leave the community without tools to track the influence of money in politics.
* A $2 million non profit exemption would mean the vast majority of non-profits would not have to register their activity.  It would create loopholes that would incentivize non profit creation to skirt registration rules, which is already an ongoing problem for ethics.