



## 2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

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### Committee Summary Report

#### Ethics Concerning Lobbyists Committee

August 22, 2019  
Comptroller's 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
9:15 p.m.

#### Committee Members:

Lee Steinhauer, Chair  
Camille Evans  
Matthew Klein  
Samuel Vilchez Santiago  
Clifford Shepard, CRC Attorney  
Katie Smith, Assisting CRC as Staff  
Jessica Vaupel, Assisting CRC as Staff

#### Absent Member

Jeffrey Miller

#### Public Comment

The following person addressed the committee: Eugene Stoccardo.

#### Background Information and Current Charter Provisions

The organizational meeting of the Ethics Concerning Lobbyists Committee was held to identify related issues and to address any member questions. Committee Chair Steinhauer opened the meeting by asking CRC Attorney Clifford Shepard if there was information he would like to share with the members regarding the topic. CRC Attorney Shepard advised the members his role is to draft enforceable language put together by the committee to be presented to the full CRC. CRC Attorney Shepard advised there are no current restrictions that prohibit a potential lobbyist from serving on a voluntary committee. CRC Attorney Shepard provided remarks regarding the possible pros and cons. Committee Chair Steinhauer contributed to the discussion.

#### Members Open Discussion

Member Vilchez Santiago inquired if it was possible to determine how many lobbyists have served in an appointed position within Orange County government. CRC Chair Evans inquired about a chart or table to show the lobbyist restrictions of previously elected and appointed individuals.

CRC Chair Evans provided remarks regarding individuals' experience and skill set related to political systems and governmental operations and the value behind these individuals being able to serve their community. Member Vilchez Santiago shared that he will keep an open mind during the discussions and appreciated the proposal. Member Klein expressed the same.

CRC Attorney Shepard discussed lobbyist definitions. Committee Chair Steinhauer expressed concerns regarding defining the term lobbyist in the Charter and whether it would be best served by the Board of County Commissioners in order to allow flexibility. Further, Committee Chair Steinhauer provided remarks regarding drafting a resolution to present to the full CRC which would ask the County to look in to the issue of lobbyist registration requirements. Discussion ensued amongst the members and CRC Attorney Shepard.

#### Preliminary Options & Future Action Plan

Committee Chair Steinhauer reiterated the information requests made by the members during the meeting to CRC staff and attorney: existing lobbyist definitions, list of current Charter counties with similar lobbyist provisions in their Charter, how long an elected or appointed official must wait to lobby and the public records request to the County regarding how many lobbyists have served in an appointed position within Orange County government.

After the discussion, the members agreed to keep the committee meetings scheduled on Mondays, beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Smith suggested to the members that CRC Attorney Shepard draft pros and cons as they will most likely be included in the committee's final recommendation to the full CRC. Committee Chair Steinhauer agreed. Discussion ensued amongst the members and CRC Attorney Shepard. Committee Chair Steinhauer urged the members and citizens to email pros and cons related to lobbyist restrictions to CRC staff at [charter2020@occompt.com](mailto:charter2020@occompt.com).

Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>. The next meeting date for the committee will be published in the same location.