



New York City Campaign Finance Board

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Testimony of Amy Loprest, Executive Director New York City Campaign Finance Board

City Council Committee on Governmental Operations April 11, 2007

Good morning, Chairman Felder, and Committee members. I am Amy Loprest, Executive Director of the New York City Campaign Finance Board (CFB). With me are Deputy Executive Director Carole Campolo and General Counsel Sue Ellen Dodell.

I am here today to testify on Int. No. 502-B, to modify the requirements for disclosure of lobbyist activities.

The lobbying law enacted last year by this City Council is a reform measure that achieves some important good-government objectives: it gives New Yorkers more information about people seeking to influence City government; and it limits the influence of lobbyists' campaign contributions in the political process.

The lobbying law explicitly recognizes that the Board must have access to both the names and home addresses of lobbyists, as reported to the City Clerk, to adequately enforce the law's prohibition on matching contributions from lobbyists and associated individuals.

The proposed legislation, which will amend that law, should not present any adverse effect on enforcement. Nor would it impede any effort to perform analysis of contributions impacted by the law.

The Board believes that proper enforcement of the law does not require the CFB to take steps to make those home addresses public. The Board provides access to campaign finance disclosure data provided by campaigns through our web site, www.nyccfb.info. Though campaigns are required to report a home address for every contributor, the addresses are not published on our web site.

The changes to the law relating to campaign contributions from unemancipated children of lobbyists should present no impediment to enforcement of the law, once a proper mechanism is created to receive lobbyists' amended statements of registration from the City Clerk.

We anticipate working with the office of the City Clerk and the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), as we have in the past, to design a response to the requirements of the amended law.

Thank you for soliciting our input on this issue, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.