

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster, California

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12/11/07
MVB

Date: December 11, 2007

To: Mayor Hearn and City Council Members

From: David R. McEwen, City Attorney

Subject: **Proposed Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.26 to the Lancaster Municipal Code Relating To Lobbyist Registration**

Recommendation:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 884**, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lancaster, California, adding Chapter 2.26 concerning lobbyist registration to the Lancaster Municipal Code.

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown

Background:

At the meeting of March 27, 2007, Councilmember Smith requested that for the furtherance of transparent government, the City Attorney bring back information concerning registration of lobbyists. The attached ordinance which is based on similar ordinances adopted by other cities requires any person or entity that either acts as a paid lobbyist or employs a lobbyist to register with the City and to thereafter file annual reports with the City. The Ordinance provides for a registration fee to be approved by resolution. In addition to the registration requirement, the Ordinance requires each lobbyist to disclose such fact and certain other information when appearing at any public meeting of the City Council, Agency and Planning Commission. The Ordinance also prohibits gifts from a lobbyist in amounts in excess of \$50.00 per month or \$390.00 annually and prohibits employment of a City official by a lobbyist for any purpose. Any person violating the Ordinance may be prevented from addressing the City Council, except on their own behalf, and may also be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.00.