



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

★
MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

December 19, 2019

Mr. William F. Conlon, Esq.
Chair, Board of Ethics
740 North Sedgwick Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60654

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Dear Chairman Conlon,

Ethics and transparency have been cornerstones of my administration and together we have made reforms to the way our city government works. Throughout this time, you have partnered with us and I want to thank you for your commitment to carrying out the reforms that we put in place over the past seven months.

In particular, you joined us in reaching out and conducting trainings and listening sessions with non-profit stakeholders in the lead up to the extension of lobbyist registration rules to previously uncovered non-profits. These trainings reached hundreds of organizations and funders. However, as we approach the registration deadline, more organizations are becoming alert to these new transparency requirements and have brought forward case specific questions for your consideration.

In order to ensure a smooth implementation of this law and provide you time for careful consideration of industry-specific questions, I am requesting that you delay the enforcement of non-profit registration by three months, from January 20, 2020 to April 20, 2020. I know that your Board and Executive Director Steve Berlin agree with the benefits of a delay. I expect that throughout the delay period the Board will continue to partner with my staff to conduct trainings and outreach and that the Board will incorporate what is learned into rules and advisory opinions. Finally, I look forward to continuing to evaluate implementation on an ongoing basis after the law takes effect on April 20th so that we can resolve any outstanding questions and provide clarification to the ordinance if required.

Happy holidays to your and your family.

Regards,

Mayor

CC: Steve Berlin, Executive Director, Board of Ethics