

ORDINANCE NO. C-25-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ENACTING A NEW SUBSECTION 2-265 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, THEREBY ESTABLISHING LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, SEVERABILITY, REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, under both the United States Constitution and the Florida Constitution, people have the fundamental right to petition their government, which includes a right to lobby their government; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale also has a compelling interest in protecting against both the appearance of and actual government corruption, and may regulate lobbying to accomplish this compelling interest; and.

WHEREAS, when regulating lobbying, the City must balance fundamental First Amendment freedoms against its compelling interests, including its interests in preserving and maintaining the integrity of, and public confidence in, the governmental decision making process, while also ensuring that its regulation is closely tailored to this end so that the City does not burden more speech than necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City, through this enactment, seeks to establish lobbying restrictions for members of City Boards, Committees, task forces and the like, to protect against the appearance of and actual government corruption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Section 2-265 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is hereby created to provide as follows:

Sec. 2-265. – Restrictions on Lobbying by Appointed Board and Committee Members.

The restrictions stated in this section shall apply to any person appointed to serve as a member of a City board or committee, which for purposes of this section shall also include task forces and the like. The City Commission, through the adoption of a resolution by majority vote, may remove for cause any member who violates the provisions of this section, except when inconsistent with City Charter, general or special law. This authority of the City Commission to remove members for cause shall be cumulative with any other legislation governing City boards and committees.

(a) No member of a City board or committee shall, during the member's term of appointment and for a period of two (2) years after such term of appointment, engage in lobbying or lobbying activities, as those terms are defined in Broward County Code of Ordinances, section 1-19, Code of Ethics for Elected Officials, with the City Commission, a City board, committee, task force and the like, or any member thereof, or the City Manager or City staff.

SECTION 2. At the direction of the City Attorney, the publisher of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is authorized to conform chapter, article, section, subsection, and clause numbers and letters, and capitalization, set forth in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and to correct any non-substantive scrivener's errors in the codification of this Ordinance without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 3. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this ____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED SECOND READING this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

ATTEST:

City Clerk
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

DRAFT

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