



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

For immediate release

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**LOBBYING BUREAU ANNOUNCES AMNESTY**

Today the Lobbying Bureau of the City of New York's Office of the City Clerk announced that a six-month amnesty will commence on January 1, 2016.

The amnesty was mandated by Local Law 129 of 2013 to increase compliance with New York City's lobbying law. Outlined by chapter 1 of title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York, adopted on November 4, 2015, the program allows individuals and organizations who have never filed lobbying reports with the City Clerk to file without incurring any penalties. Local Law 129 also created a pre-amnesty period during which applicants who intend to apply for amnesty can immediately comply and submit requisite reports. Applications are currently being accepted for the pre-amnesty program.

"The one-time amnesty is a great opportunity for individuals and organizations that are not compliant with New York City's lobbying law to come forward without incurring penalties. Many find the lobbying law intimidating and difficult to understand which leads to noncompliance. An amnesty was included in the lobbying law to promote transparency in government and to encourage people who interact with city officials to consider whether they are required to file lobbying reports," said City Clerk Michael McSweeney.

Organizations and individuals who file lobbying reports with New York City are also subject to the jurisdiction of the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics ("JCOPE"). JCOPE is offering an amnesty program with similar eligibility requirements and application period as the City Clerk. Therefore, filers can participate in the City amnesty program without fear of incurring penalties from JCOPE.

The Lobbying Bureau will conduct extensive outreach including training for any organization that wishes to learn about the amnesty and the lobbying law. To learn more, please visit the Lobbying Bureau website at [http://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/html/lobbying/lobbying\\_bureau.shtml](http://www.cityclerk.nyc.gov/html/lobbying/lobbying_bureau.shtml) or contact the Lobbying Bureau at 212-669-8171 or by email at [lobbyist\\_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov](mailto:lobbyist_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov).