



NEWS RELEASE

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In the latest of numerous recent initiatives undertaken by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), quarterly reports detailing activities by registered lobbyists will now be available on the Commission's website.

The reports contain information on legislation that lobbyists oppose or support as well as information about their interactions with the executive branch on issues like contracts, permits or fines, said Jeff Brindle, ELEC's Executive Director.

"Despite budgetary and staffing limitations, we are constantly trying to improve the services we offer the public," said Brindle. "I want to applaud our staff for making this happen."

Initially, all the reports are contained in a single, searchable portable document format (PDF) file. Eventually, the agency hopes to post each report separately, he said.

Brindle further noted that beginning this year, lobbyists were able to electronically submit their annual reports.

As a result, ELEC, also for the first time, was able to post all annual reports on its website on the same day the paper reports were scheduled to be made public (March 7). Annual reports contain information such as clients and fees, lobbyist salaries, funds spent on communications or gifts, and appointed positions held by the lobbyists.

Brindle singled out Titus Kamal, Associate Compliance Officer, for special praise. Kamal personally scanned all of the several hundred quarterly lobbying reports.

Brindle also praised the efforts of Linda White, Director of Lobbying; Amy Davis, Compliance Director; Maryanne Garcia, Principal Webmaster; and Carol Neiman, Director of Information Technology.

"One of ELEC's great strength is the tremendous dedication of its staff. Efforts like this are a testament to that dedication," he said.

The initial group of quarterly reports covers activities from May 1 through December 31, 2011 and can be accessed at: http://www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation/gaa_quarterly.htm.

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