



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the City Attorney

**Date:** January 22, 2015  
**To:** Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
**Subject:** Ethics Officer Report Pursuant to Minneapolis City Ordinance § 15.40(b)(4)  
**Recommendation:** That the Committee receive and file this report.

Prepared by: Susan L. Trammell, Minneapolis Ethics Officer

Approved by:   
Susan Segal  
City Attorney

Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri, Intergovernmental Relations Director

### Report:

Minneapolis Code of Ethics, Section 15.40(b)(4) requires that the Ethics Officer report to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee the projects, if any, that create a professional conflict of interest for the City's proposed lobbyists. The Ethics Ordinance, § 15.40(b)(4) defines professional conflict of interest as "a situation where the interest of a principal of the lobbyist are or may be adverse to the interests of the city."

The Intergovernmental Relations Department (IGR) has informed the Ethics Officer of the intention to enter into a lobbying contract for the 2015 Minnesota legislative session with Douglas Franzen of Franzen, Law & Policy Group, LLC. Mr. Franzen supplied a list of principals for whom the lobbyist's firm was expected to provide lobbying services. For each principal, a list of expected lobbying projects was provided and is attached to this report.

Both IGR and the Ethics Officer reviewed the list of principals and lobbying issues for professional conflict of interest. At this time we found no situations where the interests of the City may be adverse to those of the current principals of Franzen, Law & Policy Group, LLC. Each lobbyist entering a contract with the City for lobbying services is required by Code of Ethics, § 15.40(b)(4) to update their list of principals and lobbying issues whenever there is a change. IGR will continue to monitor the potential for conflicts through the length of the contract.



2015 LEGISLATIVE CLIENTS  
1/06/15

- Allina Hospitals and Clinics  
(health and human services issues)
- Allstate Insurance Company  
(property-casualty insurance)
- American Family Mutual Insurance Company  
(property-casualty insurance)
- American Heart Association  
(health and healthy living initiatives)
- American Red Cross  
(health issues, disaster relief)
- Association of Minnesota Counties  
(issues impacting county government)
- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota  
(issues promoting biking and bicycle safety)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota  
(health insurance)
- City of Minneapolis
- City of St. Louis Park  
(local government issues; bonding)
- Local Public Health Association  
(public health issues)
- Minneapolis Auto Auction  
(taxation and auto titling issues)
- Minneapolis Radiation Oncology  
(medical and health issues)
- Minnesota Cable Communications Association  
(telecommunications issues)
- Minnesota Auctioneers Association  
(taxation and other issues impacting auctioneers)
- Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association  
(outdoor recreation)
- Minnesota Wine and Spirits Group  
(sunday liquor)
- National Insurance Crime Bureau  
(insurance fraud)

- **Running Aces Harness Track**  
(gaming and horse racing)
- **The Salvation Army**  
(health and human services)