Nassau County Lobbyist Registration Emergency Regulations Due to Novel Coronavirus Extension of Deadline For Filing First Quarter Lobbying Reports

Emergency Rule: In light of the hardships caused by the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak and the resulting state of emergency, the deadline under Nassau County Charter §§ 1113(a)(1) and (2) for filing the first periodic lobbying report for 2020 is **extended from April 15, 2020 to May 15, 2020.** This does not prohibit lobbyists from filing a periodic report for the January 1 to March 31 period at any time after March 31, 2020, provided the report is filed no later than the May 15, 2020 deadline.

Statutory Basis: Pursuant to County Charter § 1120, the County Attorney is authorized to promulgate and issue rules and regulations to implement and carry out the Lobbyist Registration Law.

Justification These emergency regulations are necessary in order to address hardships created by the novel coronavirus.

The Governor declared a statewide State of Emergency on March 7, 2020 by Executive Order No. 202. The County Executive declared a local state of emergency for the County of Nassau on March 13, 2020. The statewide and local states of emergency remain in effect.

Pursuant to County Charter § 1113(a), lobbyists required to file a statement of registration with the County Attorney's office are also required to file periodic reports on forms prescribed by the County Attorney by the fifteenth day next succeeding the end of the applicable reporting period. The reporting periods are from January 1 to March 31, April 1 to May 31, June 1 to August 31, and September 1 to December 31.

Accordingly, the filing deadline for periodic reports for the January 1 to March 31, 2020 period is currently April 15, 2020. Due to the burden and displacement caused by the COVID-19 outbreak on the parties that file these reports and the County workforce that processes and reviews them, it is appropriate to extend the deadline by one month.

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