



PO Box 393, Lambertville, NJ 08530

March 4, 2021

Dear Mr. Furlong,

Lambertville United is a grass roots organization formed in 2020 in response to problematic policies in the operation of our City of Lambertville (NJ) government. Lambertville United's mission is straightforward. We are a citizen watchdog and seek to preserve our rich heritage, prevent the City Administration from compromising our environment and quality of life by overdevelopment, and advocating to keep Lambertville affordable. As a watchdog group, we do not have officers, board members, membership registration or collect fees.

In one of our publications, we called into question the wisdom of having professional lobbyists engaged in civic roles, because in our view, appearances matter. Here's the exact article that was published in our August 2020 newsletter so that it can be viewed in the proper context.

INTEREST GROUPS AND LAMBERTVILLE GOVERNMENT

The common definition for "Lobbying" is "any attempt by individuals or private interest groups to influence the decisions of government." As such, efforts are made at all government levels to keep lobbyists out of the actions, policies, and/or decisions of government officials.

Lambertville United is concerned about "lobbyists" sitting in key decision-making roles in Lambertville. We are asking "why" our Mayor, members of City Council and the City's fire department commissioner are all professional lobbyists?

This question is particularly salient because Councilwoman Madeline Urbish, Councilman Wardell Sanders, Mayor Julia Fahl and Al Komjathy - our Fire Commissioners' Chairman - represent clients that could potentially profit from the City of Lambertville's business or may do so in the future.

The optics of Mayor Fahl shutting down communication between a City official who was making inquiries to

Waste Management did not look good, especially because Waste Management is a client of Al Komjathy.

The optics also are terrible for how the City responded to residents' requests for pesticide regulation. The Mayor and City Planner acted quickly to form a sub-committee within the Environmental Commission to investigate regulation of pesticides in Lambertville, which includes overseeing pesticide applicators. Meanwhile, the Mayor is employed by a lobbying firm that represents Scott's Miracle Grow, a pesticide producer.

Moreover, the City Planner was appointed to lead the subcommittee on pesticides. She has not yet convened a meeting citing scheduling conflicts and calendar issues. She claims she cannot find the time to attend proposed meetings!

[1https://www.britannica.com/topic/lobbying](https://www.britannica.com/topic/lobbying)

We understand Aladar Komjathy's professional standing as a lobbyist. He also serves as a public official as a Fire Commissioner in the City of Lambertville. Currently, on the national stage as well as local government, the thinking is the two roles, professional lobbyist, and part-time elected official, should not mix. We have written as much, noting the optics when they do. We trust this letter will resolve any potential controversy that may have arisen in connection with our August publication. While we do not think it is a good practice to have lobbyists embedded in local government, we simply do not know enough about Mr. Komjathy and his business practices to make any factual based statements of recommendation, integrity or wrongdoing.

Very truly yours,
The Lambertville United Team