

JUL 16 2009

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

## **LOBBYIST FILING AGREEMENT**

This Agreement, made this 13 day of July, 2009, by and between Arthur C. Abramson, Executive Director and lobbyist for the Baltimore Jewish Council, and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the Maryland State Ethics Commission (hereinafter "Staff Counsel").

### **RECITALS**

The State Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is the executive agency of the State of Maryland established by Chapter 513, Acts of 1979 for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (State Government Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland, hereinafter the Ethics Law) including the provisions of Subtitle 7, the lobbying disclosure program.

Arthur C. Abramson ("the Filer") is an individual whose lobbying activities on behalf of the Baltimore Jewish Council ("BJC") for the period November 1, 2007 through to October 31, 2008, required him to register as a lobbyist with the State Ethics Commission and report his activities and the activities of his lobbyist employer as required by Subtitle 7, Md. Code. Ann., State Gov't. Art. (Supp. 2008).

The Filer registered with the Commission as a lobbyist for BJC on November 13, 2007 and filed a lobbying activity report for the period November 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008 on May 21, 2008. He also filed a lobbying activity report for the period May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008 on November 28, 2008.

During ten days in May, 2008, the BJC participated through the Filer's attendance on a trip to Israel that was sponsored by the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation ("Foundation"). BJC acted as the Foundation's administrative agent and tour guide on the trip. Two elected State officials attended the trip as the guests of the Foundation. This was consistent with Commission advice in 2003 that the Foundation was not a controlled donor pursuant to Ethics Law and that the public officials could be guests for the purposes of the trip.

The spouses of the two State officials also attended the Israel trip. The Foundation policies did not allow for the spouses of the two State officials to attend the trip as guests of the Foundation. Subsequently, it was determined and the Filer provided information that BJC paid for the trip expenses of the two spouses on the trip. BJC represents that these trip expenses were paid by BJC as a result of administrative error.

The Filer did not disclose as a gift on the original lobbying activity report filed for the period May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008 the trip expenses it paid for the two spouses of the elected State officials. Gifts to public officials from the lobbyist and the lobbyist employer are required to be disclosed on the lobbying activity report of the regulated lobbyist.

The Filer subsequently filed an amended lobbying activity report on March 20, 2009 as well as Form No. #13C disclosing gifts of \$75 or more. Copies of these reports are attached hereto.

The Filer is voluntarily entering into this agreement to admit his and his employer's failure to timely file a complete lobbyist activity report, and a Form No. #13C disclosure of gifts, and to pay a sum of money in lieu of potential late filing fees and in lieu of an additional fine for the gift to the two elected State officials of their spouses' travel expenses.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the submission of the required amended Lobbyist Activity Report and Form No. #13C (Gift Disclosure) by the Filer on March 20, 2009, and the admissions and agreements herein contained, the Filer and Staff Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. The Filer did not properly or timely file a complete lobbying activity report for the period May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008, as required by §15-704(a) and (b) of the Ethics Law.

2. The Filer did not timely file a Disclosure of Gifts of \$75 or More (Form No. #13C) as required by §15-704(c) of the Ethics Law.

3. The Filer represents that BJC's payment of travel expenses for the spouses of the two elected State officials and the Filer's corresponding failure to file the forms identified in paragraphs 1 and 2, above, was the result of administrative error. The Filer has cooperated fully with the Staff in its review of this matter and has filed the required amended lobbying activity report and the gift disclosure on March 20, 2009. (Copies of each form have been attached hereto and made a part thereof.)

4. The Filer understands that failure to comply with the lobbying disclosure provisions of the Ethics Law may subject him to a formal complaint by the Commission and, upon finding of a violation, late fees and the possibility of civil fines.

5. Based on the facts stated in this agreement the Filer agrees to pay as settlement of the late filing matter, the amount of FIVE HUNDRED and no/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) at the time of the execution of this agreement in lieu of potential late fees pursuant to §15-405(g)(1) for the filing of the two documents.

6. The Filer also agrees to pay in lieu of potential civil fines for the above described gifts to the spouses of the two elected State officials, the sum of ONE THOUSAND and no/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000) at the time of the execution of this agreement.

7. The Filer and BJC, his employer, understand that the Commission will issue a reprimand for the events described herein related to the gifts made to the spouses of the two State elected officials, and that the reprimand and this Lobbyist Filing Agreement will be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

8. The Staff Counsel will, upon execution of this Agreement by the Filer, recommend that the Commission not institute any proceedings related to this matter. The Filer understands that the Commission is under no obligation to accept this agreement and may decide to take other action, including issuing a complaint.

9. The Filer waives a formal hearing on this matter (if the agreement is accepted by the Commission) to which he would be entitled if a complaint were issued, and he understands that this Agreement and materials relating to this matter are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Ethics law, and will be public information unless otherwise protected.

10. The Filer understands a copy of this agreement will be mailed to his employer.

11. The Filer and the Staff Counsel have entered into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the matters discussed herein and for no other purpose.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, Arthur C. Abramson, lobbyist, and William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel, State Ethics Commission, have hereunto set their hands.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON  
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel  
State Ethics Commission  
45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-7770

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON  
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Arthur C. Abramson, Executive Director  
and Lobbyist for  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
5750 Park heights Avenue

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON  
ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

Thomas K. Hyatt  
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP  
Direct: 202.408.3947  
Fax: 202.408.6399  
thyatt@sonnenschein.com  
Attorney for the Baltimore Jewish Council

State of Maryland  
County of: MARYLAND, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Arthur C. Abramson, and acknowledged that he was an individual authorized to execute this document on behalf of the Baltimore Jewish Council and who made oath on this 13 day of JULY, 2009 in due form of law that the matters and facts hereinabove set forth are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, and are his voluntary act and that he executed this document for the purpose set forth herein.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 6/1/10

State of Maryland,  
County of: ANNE ARUNDEL, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared William J. Colquhoun, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, who made oath on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 2009 in due form of law that he executed this agreement for the purposes set forth herein.

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Notary Public

DONALD M. STREET  
Notary Public-Maryland  
Anne Arundel County  
My Commission Expires  
November 09, 2010

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted by the Commission

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Robert E. Scholz, Chair  
for the Commission

Date: 8/13/, 2009

RECEIVED

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**DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS OF \$75 OR MORE  
SPECIAL ACTIVITY REPORT - SINGLE EMPLOYER**  
(Form #13C)

Period Covered by This Report: November 1, 20\_\_ through April 30, 20\_\_  
May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008

**Instructions:** This report is to be filed by regulated lobbyists, including a non-exempt employer who has expended \$75 or more for gifts to any official, employee or the spouse or dependent children of the employee or official during a reporting period. You must include in this report gifts whether or not given in connection with lobbying activities and gifts totaling \$75 by multiple registrants for one employer. The form is also applicable to situations in which the total of multiple registrants for one employer gives a gift of \$75 or more even though a single registrant's portion of the gift for that particular employer did not reach that level. All gifts paid in whole or part by the employer count toward the \$75 threshold except for: 1) Those expended on legislators or its public official staff at special events for all members of the General Assembly, either House, a standing committee thereof, or all members of a formally recognized county or regional delegation, 2) Food or beverages received by a legislator at the time and geographic location of a meeting of a legislative organization for which the legislator's presiding officer has approved attendance at State expense, 3) Gifts of tickets or free admission to a legislator by the person conducting or sponsoring the charitable, cultural or political event to which were invited all members of a legislative unit, 4) Gifts reported by name of recipient in an Executive Elected Official's Meals and Beverages Special Report, or 5) Gifts for expenses related to speaking engagements. You must also include in this report situations in which the lobbyist or non-exempt employer has provided tickets or free admission to other than an official legislative unit or if a legislator receives two or more tickets with a cumulative value of \$100 or more. If you participated in a gift(s) with one or more other lobbyists, you must itemize your portion of the gift on this form and cross-reference to the reports of the other lobbyist(s). If the lobbyist paid the \$75 from his or her own funds, use Form 13D. Under some circumstances, Form 13D may be used in situations in which a lobbyist has been involved in \$75 or more in gifts to a single official or employee.

**PART A. Identification of Regulated Lobbyist (Registrant and Employer).**

- I. Identifying Information:
  - a. Name of Registrant Arthur C. Abramson
  - b. Permanent Address (Include firm name if applicable)  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
5750 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215
  - c. Business Telephone (410) 542-4850
- II. Identification of Employer:

Complete only if registrant acts on behalf of another.

  - a. Identify the person or organization who compensated the lobbyist for activities requiring this registration.  
Name Baltimore Jewish Council  
Permanent Address 5750 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Business Telephone (410) 542-4850
  - b. Identify any other person who the lobbyist represents regarding the matters covered by this registration (if none, write in none). The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; BJC, Maryland Jewish Alliance, JCEC of Greater Washington & Jewish Fed of Grtr Washington

**PART B. Names of Officials, Employees or Member of Their Immediate Family Receiving Gifts of \$75 or More**

If an official or employee, including members of the person's immediate family, receives gifts totaling \$75 or more, you must list in this report the recipient and each individual gift that is part of the \$75. Include the name of recipient, date, value and nature for each gift or gifts. If the amount listed for a gift on this report is only part of the cost of a gift partially paid by other registrants of this employer, list the total cost of the gift under "Nature of the Gift." You must also report your portion of a total gift of \$75 or more to which other lobbyists registered on behalf of the employer contributed, and you must identify the other lobbyist contributors. In the "Comment" space below, the donor may also explain the circumstances under which the gift was given.

Name of Recipient	Title or Position (if family member of official or employee, name of official or employee and relationship)	Date	Itemization of Gifts		Nature of Gift
			Amount or Value		
Cynthia Abbot Busch	Speaker of the House Michael Busch (husband)	5/28/08	\$8,360		Educational trip to Israel
Ann Maher	State Comptroller Peter Tranchesi (husband)	5/28/08	\$8,360		Educational trip to Israel

Gift Comment (if any)

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**PART C. Signature and Date**

I solemnly swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this report including any attachments thereto, are complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

[SEAL]

Signature of Person Filing:

Date:

Sworn to before me this

Signature of Notary Public:

Printed/typed Name of Notary Public:

My Commission Expires:

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

BRENDA M. ZIRKIND  
 NOTARY PUBLIC  
 BALTIMORE CITY, MD.  
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 06/01/2010

MARYLAND STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
45 Calvert Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-260-7770  
Toll Free 1-877-669-6085

AMENDED

RECEIVED

GENERAL LOBBYING ACTIVITY REPORT (Form #4)

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Read instructions carefully before completing this form. If you had reportable expenses or compensation during the reporting period, complete Parts A, B, C, D, E, F and G of the Activity Report. If you had no reportable compensation or expenses during the reporting period, but were registered to engage in lobbying, check here  and complete Parts A, E, F and G. If additional forms are required for this employer, those forms should be attached to and made part of this filing.

Period covered by this report: May 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008

A. Identification of Regulated Lobbyist (Registrant and Employer)

A-1. Identifying information (complete all blanks, compare to registration form, and explain any differences)

- a) Name Arthur C. Abramson
- b) Permanent Address (Include firm name if applicable) Baltimore Jewish Council  
5750 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215
- c) Business Telephone ( 410 ) 542-4850
- d) Occupation or Type of Business Community Relations Agency

A-2. Identification of others required to register:

- a) Was any other person required to register as a lobbyist on behalf of the person or organization identified in section A-1? Yes  No
- b) If the answer to a) is "Yes," identify each such person below and give their name and address:  
David Conn - c/o Baltimore Jewish Council, 5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215  
Melody McCoy McEntee - c/o Baltimore Jewish Council, 5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215  
Michelle Bernstein - c/o Baltimore Jewish Council, 5750 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215

A-3. Identification of employer (complete only if registrant acts on behalf of another).

- a) Identify all persons or organizations who compensate the registrant for activities requiring this registration:  
Name Baltimore Jewish Council  
Permanent Address 5750 Park Heights Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
Business Telephone ( 410 ) 542-4850  
Nature of Business Community Relations Agency
- b) Identify any other person who the registrant represents regarding the matters covered by this registration (if none, put in none) The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Baltimore Jewish Council; Maryland Jewish Alliance; Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington; The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

A-4. Primary purpose of organization:

Is the employer, or registrant organization if there was not an employer, organized and operated for the primary purpose of attempting to influence any legislative or executive action? Yes  No   
(If "Yes," the Report of Contributors Form No. 12 must also be completed.)

A-5. Registration information:

- a) State the period (include both beginning and ending month, day and year) for which this registration is effective:  
November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2008
- b) Identify the matters (including formal designation if known) on which the registrant acted or employed someone to act during the registration period covered by this report Anti-semitism, healthcare, shelter and nutrition, housing, welfare grants, civil rights

A-6. Does the employer listed in A-3 claim to be exempt from lobbyist registration and reporting because all expenditures requiring registration are reported by the registrant, another registrant, or by the registrant with other registrants? Yes  No  If the exemption claimed differs from the registration form, please explain in writing.

B. Compensation and Expenses

B-1. Meals and beverages for officials or employees or their immediate families. \$ -0-

B-2. Special events, including dinners and receptions, entertainment, and other functions to which all members of the General Assembly, either house thereof, all members of any standing committee or all members of a formally recognized (for ethics disclosure purposes) county or regional delegation have received written invitations. List date, location, group of invitees who benefited and total expenses for each event. (Not required for meals and receptions listed completely and accurately on the 14-Day Report, Form 13F, but check below.)

Event(s) Fully Reported on 14-Day Report(s)

Total B-2 Expenses \$

B-3. Expenses for food, lodging, or scheduled entertainment of officials and employees for a meeting which are given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting. List date, location, and total expense for each meeting. If the total amount in expenses on any one official or employee is \$200 or more for any meeting, also include the person's name and the amount expended for the person at the meeting.

Total B-3 Expenses \$

B-4. Expenses for food and beverages received by member of General Assembly or members at approved legislative organization meeting. List location, name of legislative organization, date and total expense for each meeting.

Total B-4 Expenses \$ -0-

B-5. Expenses for a ticket or free admission to members of the General Assembly to attend charitable, cultural or political events where all members of legislative unit are invited by the event holder. List event, location, date, legislative unit and total expenses for each event.

Total B-5 Expenses \$

B-6. Gifts to or for officials or employees or their immediate families (not including sums reported in B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4 and B-5). Hamantaschen (cookies to all the legislators)

Subtotal of Items B-1 through B-6 - \$16,720.00

\$ 16,720.00

B-7. Total compensation paid to registrant (not including sums reported in any other section of Part B). Check here if the amount has been prorated because the registrant is compensated for services in addition to lobbying activities. X

\$ 4,266.67

B-8. Salaries, compensation and reimbursed expenses for staff of the registrant. \$

B-9. Office Expenses not reported in B-7 and B-6. \$

B-10. Cost of professional and technical research and assistance not reported in B-7 and B-6. \$

B-11. Publications and expenses which expressly encourage persons to communicate with officials or employees. \$ -0-

B-12. Names of witnesses and the fees and expenses paid to each. Total B-12 Expenses \$

B-13. Other expenses \$ -0-

Total of Items B-1 through B-13: \$ 20,986.67

C. Gifts or participation in gifts with a cumulative value of \$76 or more. (Forms 13C and 13D, Section 15-704(c)) (Check One) Yes, Attached No Report Required

D. Gifts or participation in gifts of meals and beverages to elected Executive officials. (Forms 13A and 13B, Section 15-705) (Check One) Yes, Attached No Report Required

E. Business transactions with officials. (Form 21, Section 15-706) (Check One) Yes, Attached No Report Required

F. Political contributions required to be disclosed. (Form 22, Section 15-707) (Check One) Yes, Attached No Report Required

G. Signature and Oath I hereby make oath or affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this report including any attachments thereto, are complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

(SFC)

Signature of Person Filing: Date:

Sworn to before me this Signature of Notary Public:

Printed Name of Notary Public:

My Commission Expires: June 1, 2010

SIGNATURE APPEARS ON ORIGINAL AGREEMENT

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