

## **2018 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Matt Russell**

### **FINDING(S)**

1. **Matt Russell failed to timely register for one of his employers** (See Registrations section).
2. **Matt Russell failed to maintain records to verify when a lobbying relationship commenced for one of his employers** (See Registrations section).

### **EMPLOYER(S)**

- Bell & Associates Construction
- Blynco
- City of Memphis - City Council
- Global Tel Link Corporation
- Google Inc.
- IGT and its Affiliates
- Johnson Controls, Inc.
- Memorial Health Care Systems
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Nashville Hockey Club LP d/b/a Nashville Predators
- New Era Farms LLC
- Ocoee River Outfitters Association, Inc.
- Parsons Environment & Infrastructure Group, Inc.
- Powers Management L.L.C.
- Public Entity Partners
- Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc.
- Southwest Airlines Co.
- Tellico Village
- Tennessee Association of Realtors
- Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education
- Town of Smyrna
- University Support Services LLC

### **REGISTRATION(S)**

Matt Russell worked for two firms in 2018 which contract to provide lobbying services for several clients. Matt Russell registered as a lobbyist for twenty-two employers during 2018. Based on the audit documentation, Matt Russell timely registered his lobbying relationships with twenty employers. The remaining two relationships appear to have been registered late or are undeterminable due to the lack of records. The details of these registrations are in the subsequent paragraphs.

#### **Public Entity Partners**

Matt Russell changed employment between lobbying firms on September 17, 2018. Mr. Russell's new firm had an existing contract with the client. Mr. Russell was assigned to this client by his new firm. However, there is no supporting documentation, such as an email or memorandum, to document a specific date. Mr. Russell registered for the client on October 3, 2018. If the employment date of September 17, 2018 is used, Mr. Russell would have been required to register by September 24, 2018. Therefore, Mr. Russell was, at most, nine (9) days late. However, the specific date cannot be determined due to a lack of documentation.

## Town of Smyrna

One of the firms that employed Matt Russell contracted with the Town of Smyrna for lobbying services for 2018. The lobby relationship was established with an engagement letter dated March 2, 2018 that indicated services would commence on April 1, 2018 and include Mr. Russell. Therefore, it appears Mr. Russell was required to register by April 8, 2018, to be within seven days required by statute. Mr. Russell did not register until April 12, 2018, 4 days late.

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Matt Russell paid all registration fees.

### **LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)**

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided by Matt Russell, he was a contracted lobbyist employed by two firms during 2018. Each firm had written contracts or letters of understanding for each employer. The terms of the contracts appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

### **FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Matt Russell reported he had no business or familial relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

### **TRAINING**

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Matt Russell completed his required lobbyist training for the 2018 registration year and paid all training fees.