

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING**

The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street, Hartford CT
Monday, January 9, 2017

Present: Commissioners Allen Hoffman, Maureen Magnan, Alphonse Marotta, J. Lawrence Price, Hector Rivera, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella (7)

Absent: Commissioners Jean Holloway, William P. Horan and James S. Needham (3)

Also

Present: Citizen Member Ron Angelo
Commissioner Donald M. Currey
Commissioner Bhupen Patel
Commissioner Whit Osgood
Commissioner Pasquale J. Salemi
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel
Christopher R. Stone, Assistant District Counsel
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement
Robert Zaik, Interim Director of Human Resources
Mike Curley, Manager of Technical Services
Nick Salemi, Special Services Administrator
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Cynthia A. Nadolny, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 4:47 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Hoffman and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 15, 2016 were approved.

Commissioner Magnan abstained.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 9, 2017

Over the past several years, the firms of Doyle, D'Amore & Balducci and Capitol Strategies Group, LLC have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District. Based upon their collective past performance, and to maintain the necessary level of continuity within the District's legislative and administrative lobbying activities, District staff recommends the reappointment of Doyle, D'Amore & Balducci and Capitol Strategies Group, LLC to represent the District during the 2017 legislative session of the State general assembly, and to provide additional services in the area of government relations as may be necessary during the one year term of their respective contract. The term of these appointments would be from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends that the annual fee for each lobbyist firm remain \$25,000.00, for a total of \$50,000.00. Payments would be prorated over a 12-month period, commencing January 2017.

It is therefore recommended that it be:

Voted: That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

Resolved: That the firms of Doyle, D'Amore & Balducci and Capitol Strategies Group, LLC be retained to perform lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2017 and terminating on December 31, 2017, for a fee of \$25,000.00 each, totaling \$50,000.00, to be prorated over a twelve-month period, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

On motion made by Commissioner Hoffman and duly seconded, the report was received and the resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
PROPOSED CREATION OF AN OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 9, 2017

District staff is proposing to the Committee on MDC Government the adoption of an enabling ordinance to create an Office of Consumer Affairs to address and assist in resolving complicated customer service complaints and disputes. Similarly situated water utilities, including South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority in New Haven, utilize an Office of Consumer Affairs. Staff proposes that the Committee on MDC Government schedule a public hearing for consideration of amendment to the District General Ordinances to create an Office of Consumer Affairs.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that it be:

Resolved: That the Committee on MDC Government draft a proposed General Ordinance creating an Office of Consumer Affairs to advocate on behalf of consumer interests in all matters which may affect consumers, including without limitation matters of rates, water quality and supply, and wastewater service.

Further Resolved: That the Committee on MDC Government direct the District Clerk to schedule a public hearing for consideration of an amendment to the District's General Ordinances to create an Office of Consumer Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott W. Jellison
Chief Executive Officer

On motion made by Commissioner Marotta and duly seconded, the report was received and the resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval