

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT**

Remote Only Meeting  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, January 4, 2021

**Present:** Commissioners John Avedisian, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary LeBeau, Maureen Magnan, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella (8)

**Absent:** Commissioners Clifford Avery Buell, David Ionno and James Healy (3)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Donald Currey  
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Julie Price, Professional Level Trainee  
Christopher Taveras, IT Network Analyst  
David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hoffman called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 7, 2020, 2020 were approved.***

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

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 4, 2021

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte) and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. 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 each of these firms for the 2021 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of these appointments would be from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$60,000.00, (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$20,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$60,000.00, for a total of \$140,000.00. By moving Gaffney Bennet and Strategic Outreach to \$60,000.00 each, there is a slight increase from the 2020. As such, Gaffney, Bennet will be specifically tasked with providing legal advice on proposed legislation affecting the District, and Strategic Outreach will specifically tasked with an expanded role of improving our outreach to the Black and Hispanic Caucus and explaining and defending the Clean Water Project charge to legislators representing communities and constituents most adversely affected.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$70,000.00.

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 Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc., SJB Strategies, LLC and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2021 and terminating on December 31, 2021. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$60,000.00, SJB Strategies, LLC will receive

\$20,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$60,000.00, 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, including those tasks specifically referenced above.

**Further**

**Resolved:** That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2021 and terminating on December 31, 2021. Squire Patton Boggs will receive at \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$70,000.00, 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 District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present.***

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval