

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, Clifford Avery Buell, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman William A. DiBella (7)

Absent: Commissioners James Healy and Maureen Magnan (2)

Also

Present: Commissioner Richard Bush
Commissioner Donald Currey
Commissioner Jacqueline Mandyck
Commissioner Dominic Pane
Commissioner Pasquale Salemi (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner James Woulfe
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer (Remote Attendance)
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer (Remote Attendance)
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources (Remote Attendance)
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hoffman called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Buell and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 5, 2022 were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 4, 2023

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 2023 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of these appointments would be from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, 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~~ \$69,000.00, (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive ~~\$20,000.00~~ \$25,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$66,000.00, for a total of ~~\$140,000.00~~ \$160,000.00.

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, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2023. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates,

Inc. fee will receive ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$69,000.00, SJB Strategies, LLC will receive ~~\$20,000.00~~ \$25,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive ~~\$60,000.00~~ \$66,000.00, 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.

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, 2023 and terminating on December 31, 2023. 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

District Chairman DiBella made a motion to amend the resolution as shown above in redline. The amendment was duly seconded. The amendment passed by unanimous vote of those present.

On motion made by District Chairman DiBella and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted, as amended in redline above, by unanimous vote of those present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen inquired about whether the lobbyists asked for this raise or was it done without request. She suggested that the process of Charter revisions also should not be viewed as adversarial.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval