

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT
SPECIAL MEETING**

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, January 6, 2025

Present: Commissioners John Avedisian, John Bazzano, James Healy, Calixto Torres and District Chairman Donald Currey (5)

Remote

Attendance: Commissioner Kyle Anderson, Peter Gardow and Maureen Magnan (3)

Absent: Commissioner Clifford Avery Buell, Jean Holloway and James Woulfe (3)

Also

Present: Commissioner William DiBella
Commissioner Dominic Pane
Commissioner Bhupen Patel (Remote Attendance)
Commissioner Alvin Taylor
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 (Remote Attendance)
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
David Rutty, Director of Operations
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Services
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities (Remote Attendance)
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant (Remote Attendance)
Matthew McAuliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Amanda Litvak, IT Professional Level Associate (Remote Attendance)
Janice Flemming-Butler, Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC
Mike Crist, Levin, Paolino & Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Bazzano called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Torres made a correction to the December 4, 2024 minutes to reflect that he was present at the meeting.

On motion made by Commissioner Torres and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of December 4, 2024 were approved.

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

To: Committee on MDC Government

January 6, 2025

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) and Levin, Paolino & Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC 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 (Steve Bonafonte) on the federal level. District staff recommends the reappointment of the above existing firms for the 2025 state and federal legislative consultants. The term of the appointments would be from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, but as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, for a six month term, all 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 \$69,000.00, (2) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00 and (3). Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$21,000.00

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 \$95,000.00.

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. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2025 through December

31, 2025, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for a six month term. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, and Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$21,000.00, all 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, 2025 and terminating on December 31, 2025. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, 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,



John S. Mirtle
District Clerk

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

2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Christopher Stone led a discussion regarding 2025 legislative initiatives

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No requests were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval