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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** | | |
| WILLIAM BISHOP, AIA  PRESIDENT  COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 2  OFFICE (904) 630-1392  FAX (904) 630-2906  E-MAIL: wbishop@coj.net | June 27, 2013  5:00 p.m. | 117 West Duval Street  SUITE 425  JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA  32202 |

**Meeting Minutes for City Council Executive Committee**

**On Monday, June 24, 2013**

**Topic:** Interview of Candidates and Recommendation Engagement of Independent Legislative Counsel

**Location:** Conference Room A, 117 West Duval St. Suite 425

**In Attendance:** Council Members Bill Bishop, Bill Gulliford, John Crescimbeni, Greg Anderson, and Robin Lumb, Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary; Kirk Sherman Council Auditor’s Office; Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Ron Littlepage, Florida Times Union; Robert Friedman, Holland & Knight (Conferenced in on phone call); Kevin Kuzel, Executive Council Assistant; Michelle Barth, Council Liaison, Office of the Mayor.

**Meeting Convened:**  3:30 p.m.

Council President Bishop opened the meeting to allow the Executive Committee for one final review of the resume and the engagement letter for finalist Robert Friedman, Holland & Knight voted on during the June 21, 2013. Additionally, CP Bishop informed that Committee that Attorney Friedman would be conferenced into the meeting upon the Committee reviewing the document and a discussion from Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Office of General Counsel. A reminder was given for the reason for them meeting which was to finalize the recommendation for engagement of the firm make a recommendation for the procuring of services of an Independent Legislative Counsel as authorized under Ordinance 2013-367 and Section 7.201 of the Charter. The approved legislation appropriates $75,000 from the Special Council Operating Contingency fund for the purpose of hiring a City Council legislative counsel to advise

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on legislative matters and supplement services provided by the Office of General Counsel. The bill waives the Ordinance Code provision governing the procedure for hiring outside counsel to allow the Council’s Executive Committee to search for and select a proposed counsel and prepare an engagement letter to be approved by the full Council.

Council President Bishop informed the Council Executive Committee that a packet was provided by the Director/Council Secretary with the following documents: Robert Friedman’s resume, Ordinance 2013-367, Email detailing advertisement of job announcement, Job Announcement, and engagement letter from Attorney Friedman.

Council President Bishop called on Margaret “Peggy” Sidman, Office of General Counsel to address her concern. Attorney Sidman concern was a possible conflict of interest, in that Holland & Knight is the legal representative for the Florida Times Union on the issue of Sunshine Violation against the Mayor’s Office. Attorney Sidman read the following Florida State Bar Rule 4.1.7 Conflict of Interest; Current Clients into the record: (See Attachment). The Committee engaged Attorney Sidman in a question and response discussion of what was a conflict and how and under what rules did this apply? Also, under what framework would this issue be addressed by the Administration, Holland & Knight, or Florida Times Union? Committee member’s inquired as to the position of Atty Friedman and Holland & Knight? (Click on the following link for details of the discussion <http://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/personnelcommittee.aspx>)

Council President Bishop and Committee hearing the concerns of Atty Sidman requested that the Cheryl L Brown, Director conference call Atty Friedman into the meeting. Attorney Friedman was conferenced into the meeting and announced as a party to the meeting at 3:54 pm. CP Bishop provided an update to Atty Friedman as to the conversations and concerns of the Office of General Counsel. On behalf of the Committee CP Bishop inquired of Atty Friedman to provide his or his firms position on the alleged issue of potential conflict under the Florida Bar Rule as addressed by Atty Sidman. Atty. Friedman acknowledged that he was aware of Atty Sidman’ s concern and believed that this was not an issue and that he was also in contact with firm counsel for Holland & Knight. They would be willing to provide communication and had made contact with Florida Times Union client of waiver if necessary. (Click on the following link for details of the discussion <http://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/personnelcommittee.aspx>.) `

Committee asked Atty Friedman to include the following items in the engagement letter… modify to address the no travel charge, estimate amount not to exceed or provide monthly retainer for the first two months to provide a benchmark for possible charges.. go month to month as stated in initial engagement letter and see how things go modify as required if necessary. Atty Friedman agreed to provide modifications for proposed engagement legislation to go before the full Council for June 25, 2013. (Click on the following link for details of the discussion <http://www.coj.net/city-council/standing-committees/personnelcommittee.aspx>)

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Atty Friedman was asked to forward the modified engagement letter to Atty Sidman. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to move forward with Bob Friedman, Holland & Knight as the recommendation for the job announcement of Independent Legislative Counsel – for the Jacksonville City Council.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:10 pm

**Minutes Prepared By:** Cheryl L Brown, Director Jacksonville City Council

Posted 6.24.2013

**Items Forwarded to Legislative Services:**

Minutes

CD – Already on file

Sign-in Sheet

Notice- Already on file

Job Announcement

Ordinance 2013-367-E

Resumes of Finalist

Email – Detailing Job Announcement Sources

Rule 4.1.7 Conflict of Interest; Current Clients FL ST Bar

Engagement Letter from Robert Friedman, Holland & Knight

cc: Council Members/Staff

Cheryl Brown, Director/CouncilSecretary

Dana Farris, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Carol Owens, Asst. Chief – Legislative Services Division

Paula Shoup, Legislative Services – Records Retention

CITYC & CouncilRecords@coj.net