


MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager 

DATE: December 11, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER (AS SET FORTH IN THE CITY COMMISSION MEMORANDUM ACCOMPANYING THIS RESOLUTION) AND WAIVING BY A 5/7TH VOTE THE FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT, AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 2-367(E) OF THE CITY CODE, FINDING SUCH WAIVER TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH RUBIN, TURNBULL & ASSOCIATES, INC. AND RUTLEDGE-ECENIA, (AGREEMENTS) TO PROVIDE STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A TERM OF UP TO ONE YEAR, FOR A FEE OF \$54,000 (PAYABLE IN EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS) FOR EACH FIRM AND INCLUDING SUCH OTHER TERMS AS ARE CUSTOMARY IN SIMILAR AGREEMENTS FOR SUCH SERVICES; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS.

RECOMMENDATION

The City is currently considering the recession of the primary lobbying contract for state legislative items. We recently awarded a secondary contract for these services in the October meeting, that agreement is nearly finalized. We are concerned with being left in the middle of session without sufficient representation. In the event that the Commission chooses to cancel the current contract, the City Manager recommends that the Mayor and City Commission waive, by a 5/7ths vote, the formal competitive bidding requirement, as permitted in Section 2-367(e) of the City Code, as being in the best interest of the City, and authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate an agreement with Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. and Rutledge-Ecenia to provide state legislative consulting services for a term of up to a year, for a fee of \$54,000 (payable in equal monthly installments) for each firm and including such other terms as are customary in similar agreements for such services. The City Manager further recommends that the Mayor and City Commission authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the final agreement with Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. and Rutledge-Ecenia, following successful negotiations.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In preparation for the 2025 legislative session, the City has identified a significant need to enhance its state legislative representation to advocate for the City's key legislative priorities. As part of the City's efforts to procure additional state legislative consulting services, the City issued RFQ No. 2024-413-WG for State Legislative Consulting Services on June 26, 2024. The solicitation received two proposals: one from Capital City Consulting, LLC, and the other from Sun City Strategies, LLC.

On October 30, 2024, the City Commission, through Resolution No. 2024-33303, authorized the City Manager to negotiate an agreement with Capital City Consulting, LLC, as the top-ranked proposer. Given the substantial scope of the City's legislative priorities, it is important to ensure we have sufficient resources to increase the City's advocacy efforts from last session.

ANALYSIS

Due to the timing of this situation and the impending legislative session, we want to ensure the City's interests are positioned to be ready to respond to any issues that may arise.

Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. and Rutledge–Ecenia are highly regarded government relations firm with a proven track record of success in representing clients before the Florida State Legislature, Governor's office, and other state agencies. Both firms have a deep understanding of local legislative issues, coupled with their extensive experience in South Florida, uniquely positions them to support the City's legislative agenda for the upcoming 2025 session.

Given both firms expertise and established presence in the region, the City Manager has determined that retaining their services will be a valuable complement to the services provided by Capital City Consulting, LLC. To expedite the engagement of these firms, the City Administration recommends waiving the formal competitive bidding process, in accordance with Section 2-367(e) of the City Code, which permits such a waiver by a 5/7th vote of the City Commission if deemed to be in the best interest of the City.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The total cost of the services provided by Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. and Rutledge–Ecenia, is \$54,000 each for a total of \$108,000 for up to a one-year term, payable in equal monthly installments. The cost of these services has been allocated within the City's budget for state legislative consulting services

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

For the reasons outlined above, it is recommended that the Mayor and City Commission approve the attached Resolution, authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate an agreement with Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. and Rutledge–Ecenia, for state legislative consulting services, and further authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the final agreements.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Manager

Sponsor(s)

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER (AS SET FORTH IN THE CITY COMMISSION MEMORANDUM ACCOMPANYING THIS RESOLUTION) AND WAIVING BY A 5/7TH VOTE THE FORMAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT, AS PERMITTED IN SECTION 2-367(E) OF THE CITY CODE, FINDING SUCH WAIVER TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH RUBIN, TURNBULL & ASSOCIATES, INC. RUTLEDGE-ECENIA (AGREEMENTS) TO PROVIDE STATE LEGISLATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A TERM OF UP TO ONE YEAR, FOR A FEE OF \$54,000 (PAYABLE IN EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS) FOR EACH FIRM AND INCLUDING SUCH OTHER TERMS AS ARE CUSTOMARY IN SIMILAR AGREEMENTS FOR SUCH SERVICES; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS.