

**AGREEMENT**

**THIS AGREEMENT** dated the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022, is by and between the **CITY OF STAMFORD** (hereinafter the “City”), a municipal corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Connecticut with a principal place of business located at 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, Connecticut, and acting herein by Caroline Simmons, its duly authorized Mayor, and **STEVEN G. MEDNICK** (hereinafter the “Attorney”), an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Connecticut with a principal place of business located at 142 Temple Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, acting herein on behalf of himself as a sole proprietor.

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, The City issued Request for Proposals No. 881 for Legal Advisory Services (19<sup>th</sup> Charter Review Commission) on August 4, 2022 (hereinafter the “City’s RFP No. 881”);

**WHEREAS**, The Attorney submitted a proposal in response to the City’s RFP No. 881 on August 26, 2022 (hereinafter the “Attorney’s Proposal”); and

**WHEREAS**, The City has accepted the Attorney’s Proposal pursuant to the terms hereinafter set forth;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. INCORPORATION OF RECITALS.** The above terms and conditions are contractual in nature, not merely recitals and are hereby incorporated into this Agreement;

**2. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES.** The Contract Documents consist of this Agreement and the following Exhibits that, combined, define the duties, functions, obligations, responsibilities, and tasks of the Scope of Services:

Exhibit A – The City’s RFP No. 881;

Exhibit B – The Attorney’s Proposal; and

Exhibit C – The Attorney’s Approved Certificate of Insurance;

all attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein.

The Attorney will work with the City of Stamford 19<sup>th</sup> Charter Revision Commission (hereinafter the “CRC”) and, as necessary, the City of Stamford Board of Representatives (hereinafter the “BOR”) and relevant City departments with regard to revision of the City of Stamford Charter. The Attorney’s general role with the CRC is to (i) assist in the operation of the commission, the conduct of due diligence and fact-finding meetings and (ii) drafting, review and analysis of proposals, ensuring compliance with state statutes, case law, applicable municipal precedent, and other relevant legal documents, including

applicable collective bargaining agreements. In recognition of the budgetary constraints faced by municipalities, the Attorney will work closely with the CRC and legislative leadership to ensure that the Attorney's time is spent wisely. The Attorney will not represent the CRC, BOR, the City or any other board, agency, commission or department of the City in any litigation or other judicial or adversarial proceeding, or otherwise exceed the Scope of Services as defined herein, without prior authorization from the City's Corporation Counsel.

**3. NO EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO WORK.** Nothing contained herein shall grant the Attorney an exclusive right to perform the Scope of Services. The City may enter into similar agreements with other attorneys at its sole discretion on an as-needed basis;

**4. COMPENSATION.** The Attorney's billable rates shall be (i) Two Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$265.00) per hour for the Attorney and the partners of other firms retained by the Attorney and (ii) One Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$165.00) per hour for any associate attorneys. **Under no circumstance shall the Attorney's fees exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) without an additional, written notice to proceed from the City.** The City will not be required to pay a retainer for so long as payments are faithfully made. The Attorney's statement for services is the product of the hours worked multiplied by the appropriate hourly rate. The Attorney shall be responsible for reviewing all monthly billing statements before they are issued to the City to insure that the amount charged is appropriate. The Attorney shall ensure that services performed are described in a detailed manner, fully explaining the services and the charges. The City agrees to notify the Attorney in writing or email within thirty (30) days of receiving a billing statement if the City disputes any entry for legal services or charges on any billing statement. In the absence of any written objections thereto within thirty (30) days of the City's receipt of a billing statement, the City will be deemed to have accepted and acknowledged the billing statement as correct through the period covered by the billing statement. **Expenses:** The Attorney may bill and expect payment for only those out-of-pocket expenses approved in advance by the City's Corporation Counsel. Third-party expenses so approved may be forwarded directly to the City for payment.

**5. COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF WORK.** Commencing, retroactively, on October 10, 2022, the Attorney shall advise and represent the CRC in all aspects of its tenure until the issuance of the draft report to the BOR in May-June 2023 or, if necessary, a final report in response to any recommendations or questions raised by the BOR. The final action of the BOR will be in August 2023 so that the ballot questions can be filed with the Connecticut Secretary of the State in early September 2023.

**6. REPRESENTATIONS.** The Attorney represents that he is qualified in relation to the Scope of Services and further represents that it has the requisite skill, expertise, and knowledge necessary to perform the Scope of Services, including any supplementary work. The Attorney hereby acknowledges that the City has relied upon said representations in entering into this Agreement;

**7. CAPACITY/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** The Attorney is acting as an independent contractor and is not an employee of the City. This Agreement is for services only and does not create a partnership or joint venture between the Attorney and the City. The City shall not be required to pay, or make any contribution to, any social security, local, state or federal tax, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, insurance premium, profit-sharing, pension or any other employee benefit for the Attorney during the Term of this Agreement. The Attorney shall be responsible for paying, and complying with reporting requirements for, all state, local, and federal taxes related to payments made to the Attorney under this Agreement;

**8. INDEMNIFICATION.** The Attorney shall indemnify, hold harmless and, at the City's option, defend the City, its officers, agents and employees, from third party claims for loss, cost, damage, liability, and/or injury to or death of a person, including the agents and employees of the Attorney, or loss of or damage to property, resulting directly or indirectly from the Attorney's negligent performance pursuant to this Agreement, or by any negligent omission to perform some duty imposed by law or this Agreement upon the Attorney, its officers, agents and employees. The foregoing indemnity shall include reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, if applicable, shall not be limited by reason of any insurance coverage required pursuant to this Agreement, and shall survive the termination of this Agreement;

**9. INSURANCE.** The Attorney shall maintain for the entire term of this Agreement, including any extensions, insurance coverages as set forth in the Attorney's Approved Certificate of Insurance, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C. The Attorney shall be solely responsible for ensuring that its agents, including other law firms retained by the Attorney, contractors and subcontractors, maintain insurance coverage at levels no less than those required of the Attorney pursuant to this section;

**10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** The Attorney's sole remedy for City delays shall be an extension of time to complete the Scope of Services and the Attorney hereby waives any claims for consequential damages, including, but not limited to, principal office expense, loss of financing, reputation and/or lost profit;

**11. ASSIGNMENT.** The Attorney shall not assign or transfer any portion of the Scope of Services set forth herein without the prior written approval of the City;

**12. SUBCONTRACTING/SUBCONSULTING.** Aside from those other law firms, subconsultants or subcontractors disclosed in the Attorney's Proposal, the Attorney is prohibited from further subconsulting or subcontracting the Scope of Services or any part of it unless the City first approves such subconsulting or subcontracting in writing and approves, in writing, of the specific law firm, subconsultant(s) or subcontractor(s) the Attorney proposes to retain. An agreement made in violation of this provision shall confer no rights on any party and shall be null and void. Should the City approve of a proposed law firm, subconsultant or subcontractor, the Attorney shall comply with the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances § 103.4;

**13. REVIEW OF WORK.** The Attorney shall permit the City, its agents and/or employees to review, at any time, all work performed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement at any stage of the work. The Attorney agrees to provide to the Corporation Counsel a copy of any opinion, memorandum, or other written legal advice to the CRC or BOR at the same time that it is delivered to the CRC or BOR, as applicable, provided that nothing herein shall require the Attorney to provide copies of informal communications such as text messages or email exchanges;

**14. FILE RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION.** The Attorney will retain a client file for a period of seven (7) years after the conclusion of the Scope of Services. The Attorney may store some or all client file materials in a digital format. In the process of digitizing such documents, any original paper documents provided by the City will be returned to the City. Any copies of paper documents provided by the City will not be returned to the City unless the requests the return of such copies in writing. After any or all paper documents are digitized, the Attorney will destroy all paper documents in the client file, subject to the exceptions noted above. At the expiration of the seven (7) year period, the Attorney will destroy all client file materials unless the City notifies the Attorney writing that the City wishes to take possession of them. The City reserves the right to request a digital copy of all client file materials and the Attorney, agrees, subject to reasonable exceptions agreed to by the City and the Attorney, to provide all such materials to the City upon such request.

**15. CONTRACT EXTRAS.** Pursuant to the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances, Section 23-18.4 C., all contract extras regarding this Agreement shall be governed by the City of Stamford Charter and/or Code of Ordinances. The City shall not be liable for payment of any additional costs, except as otherwise expressly set forth in this Agreement, unless the provisions of the City of Stamford Charter and/or Code of Ordinances are fully complied with. The City of Stamford Charter and Code of Ordinances can be found at [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com);

**16. COMPLIANCE WITH CITY OF STAMFORD CODE PROVISIONS.** The Attorney shall fully comply, to the extent applicable, with the requirements of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances, Sections 103-1 through 103-10, regarding consultants in general. The provisions of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances can be found at [www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com);

**17. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.** The Attorney shall be responsible for compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, codes, orders, ordinances, charters, statutes, policies and procedures related to the Scope of Services.

**18. CONFIDENTIALITY.** During and after the term of this Agreement, the Attorney, including, without limitation, its employees, agents, servants and representatives, shall not directly or indirectly disclose or make available to any person, firm, corporation, association or other entity for any reason or purpose whatsoever, or use or cause to be used in any manner adverse to the interest of the City, any financial, administrative or

other confidential business information, except as is necessary to perform the Scope of Services or as may be require by law;

**19. GIFTS.** During the Term of this Agreement, including any extensions, the Attorney shall refrain from making gifts of money, goods, real or personal property or services to any appointed or elected official or employee of the City of Stamford or the Stamford Board of Education or any appointed or elected official or employee of their Boards, Commissions, Departments, Agencies or Authorities. All references to the Attorney shall include its members, officers, directors, employees, and owners of more than 5% equity in the Attorney;

**20. CODE OF ETHICS.** The Attorney is prohibited from using its status as a consultant to the City to derive any interest(s) or benefit(s) from other individuals or organizations and the Attorney shall comply with the prohibitions set forth in the Stamford Municipal Code of Ethics as codified in Chapter 19 of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances;

**21. MORALS CLAUSE.** The Attorney shall not commit any act or do anything which might reasonably be considered: (i) to be immoral, deceptive, scandalous or obscene; or (ii) to injure, tarnish, damage or otherwise negatively affect the community and/or the reputation and goodwill associated with the City. If the Attorney is accused of any act involving moral or ethical issues, dishonestly, theft or misappropriation, under any law, or any act which casts an unfavorable light upon its association with the community and/or is accused of performing or committing any act which could adversely impact the Attorney's services or reputation, the City shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon fifteen (15) days written notice specifying the reason, within which period the Attorney may cure such offense. The determination of whether and to what extent the offense is cured shall be made by the City at its sole discretion;

**22. TERMINATION.**

- A. **TERMINATION FOR CAUSE, SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES.** If, through any cause, the Attorney shall fail to fulfill, in a timely and proper manner, its obligations under this Agreement, or if the Attorney shall violate any laws or any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Agreement, the City shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Agreement for cause by giving written notice to the Attorney of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished reports, documents, data, studies, photographs, or other material prepared by the Attorney pursuant to its performance under this Agreement shall, at the option of the City, become the City's property. The Attorney shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory services completed up to the effective date of termination. The Attorney shall not be responsible for any claims resulting from the City's use of the documents on another project or changes made to the documents without the Attorney's express written permission;

The term "cause" includes, without limitation the following:

- 1) If the Attorney furnished any statement, representation, warranty or certification in connection with this Agreement, which is materially false, deceptive, incorrect, or incomplete;
- 2) If the Attorney fails to perform to the City's reasonable satisfaction any material requirement of this Agreement or is in violation of any specific provision thereof or any State or Federal law or requirement; or
- 3) If the City reasonably determines that satisfactory performance of this Agreement is substantially endangered or can reasonably anticipate such an occurrence or default.

Should the City terminate this Agreement for cause, the Attorney shall not be relieved of liability to the City for any damages sustained by the City by virtue of any breach of this Agreement by the Attorney and the City may withhold any payment to the Attorney for the purposes of setoff until such time as the exact amount of damages due the City from the Attorney is determined. Further, if applicable, the City shall have the right to:

- 1) Complete the Scope of Services, or any part thereof, either by itself or by other consultants, at the expense of the Attorney;
- 2) Purchase the products or services that are the subject of this Agreement elsewhere and hold the Attorney responsible for any increase in cost;
- 3) Pursue any equitable remedy, including, but not limited to, specific performance or injunction; and/or
- 4) Disqualify the Attorney from bidding on, submitting proposals for, or being awarded any City contract for a period not to exceed two (2) years from the date of such termination;

**B. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE.** The City may terminate this Agreement at any time the City determines that the purposes of the distribution of monies pursuant to this Agreement would no longer be served by the services provided. The City shall effect such termination by giving written notice of termination to the Attorney and specifying the effective date thereof, at least twenty (20) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished documents and other materials as described Subsection A shall, at the option of the City, become property of the City. If this Agreement is terminated by the City as provided herein, the Attorney shall be paid an amount which bears the same ratio to the total compensation as the services actually and satisfactorily performed to the effective date of termination bear to the total services of the

Attorney pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, less payments of compensation previously made, and subject to the City's right of set off for any damages pursuant to the terms of this Agreement;

**23. CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES.** Should either party to this Agreement suffer injury or damage to person or property because of any act or omission of the other party or of any of its employees, agents or others for whose acts it is legally liable, a claim for damages therefor shall be made in writing to such other party within a reasonable time after the first observance of such injury or damage;

**24. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

A. EXECUTIVE MEETING. The parties shall endeavor to resolve all claims, disputes, or other matters in controversy arising out of or related to this Agreement (“Claims”) through a meeting of the chief executives of each party, or their respective designees (“Executive Meeting”);

A request for an Executive Meeting shall be made by a party in writing and delivered to the other party. The request may be made concurrently with the filing of a non-binding mediation as set forth herein. The Executive Meeting shall be a condition precedent to mediation unless 30 days have passed after the Executive Meeting has been requested with no meeting having been held; and

The Executive Meeting shall be held in the place where the Project is located, unless another location is mutually agreed upon;

B. MEDIATION. Any Claim subject to, but not resolved by, an Executive Meeting shall be subject to mediation which, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise, shall be administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its applicable rules and procedures in effect on the date of this Agreement. A request for mediation shall be made in writing, delivered to the other party to this Agreement, and filed with the person or entity administering the mediation;

The request may be made concurrently with the filing of arbitration but, in such event, mediation shall proceed in advance of arbitration, which shall be stayed pending mediation for a period of 60 days from the date of filing, unless stayed for a longer period by agreement of the parties or court order. If an arbitration is stayed pursuant to this Section, the parties may nonetheless proceed to the selection of the arbitrator(s) and agree upon a schedule for later proceedings; and

The parties shall share the mediator’s fee and any filing fees equally. The mediation shall be held in the place where the Project is located, unless another location is mutually agreed upon. Agreements reached in mediation shall be enforceable as settlement agreements in any court having jurisdiction thereof;

- C. **ARBITRATION.** Any Claim subject to, but not resolved by, mediation shall, in the sole discretion of the City, be subject to arbitration which, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise, shall be administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its applicable rules and procedures in effect on the date of this Agreement. A demand for arbitration shall be made in writing, delivered to the other party to this Agreement, and filed with the person or entity administering the arbitration;

A demand for arbitration shall be made no earlier than concurrently with the filing of a request for mediation, but in no event shall it be made after the date when the institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on the Claim would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations. For statute of limitations purposes, receipt of a written demand for arbitration by the person or entity administering the arbitration shall constitute the institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on the Claim;

The award rendered by the arbitrator or arbitrators shall be final, and judgment may be entered upon it in accordance with applicable law; and

Any judgment will be entered or court action will be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State of Connecticut;

- D. **PERFORMANCE DURING DISPUTE.** Unless otherwise directed by the City, the Attorney shall continue performance under this Agreement while matters in dispute are being resolved;

**25. SETOFF OF PROPERTY TAXES OWED TO THE CITY OF STAMFORD.**

Pursuant to the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances Section 23-18.4.1 and Section 12-146b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the City shall have the right to set-off or withhold any payment, or portion thereof, due to the Attorney pursuant to this Agreement if any taxes levied by the City of Stamford against any property, both real and personal, owned by the Attorney are delinquent and have been so delinquent for a period of not less than one year. Any amount withheld from the Attorney pursuant to this section shall be applied to the Attorney's delinquent taxes, provided, however, that no such amount withheld shall exceed the amount of tax, plus penalty, lien fees and interest, outstanding at the time of withholding;

**26. NON-APPROPRIATION.** The City is a municipal corporation and, therefore, the City's obligation to make payments under this Agreement is contingent upon the appropriation by the City of Stamford Board of Representatives of funds sufficient for such purposes for each budget year in which this Agreement is in effect;

**27. GOVERNING LAWS AND VENUE.** The parties deem this Agreement to have been made in the City of Stamford, State of Connecticut and that it is fair and reasonable for the validity and construction of this Agreement to be, and it shall be, governed by the laws and court decisions of the State of Connecticut, without giving effect to its



principles of conflicts of laws. To the extent that these courts are courts of competent jurisdiction, for the purpose of venue, the complaint shall be made returnable to the Judicial District of Fairfield, at Stamford, only or shall be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut only, and shall not be transferred to any other court. The parties hereby waive any objection which they may now have or will have to the laying of venue of any claims in any forum and further irrevocably submit to such jurisdiction in any suit, action or proceeding;

**28. INTERPRETATION.** The City, in its sole discretion, shall determine the terms and/or document(s) which shall prevail and take precedence in the event of any ambiguity between the terms of this Agreement and any of the incorporated Exhibits;

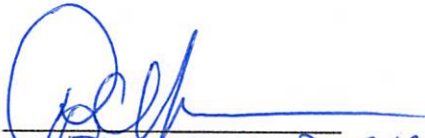
**29. NON-WAIVER.** The failure of either party to insist upon strict performance of any of the terms, conditions or covenants herein shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies that party may have; and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach or default of the terms, conditions or covenants herein contained. The parties reserve the right to require strict compliance therewith at any time, with or without notice, except as may be otherwise required herein; and

**30. COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. The counterparts shall together constitute but one Agreement. Any signature on a copy of this Agreement or any document necessary or convenient thereto sent by facsimile, PDF or other electronic format shall be binding upon such transmission and the facsimile, PDF or other electronic format copy shall be deemed an original for the purposes of this Agreement. Paper copies or "printouts," if introduced as evidence in any judicial, arbitral, mediation or administrative proceeding, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other original business records created and maintained in documentary form. Neither party shall contest the admissibility of true and accurate copies of electronically signed documents on the basis of the best evidence rule or as not satisfying the business records exception to the hearsay rule.

*REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK. SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

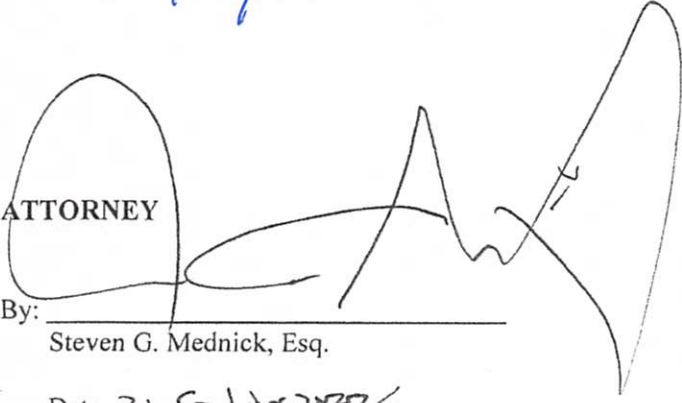
CITY OF STAMFORD

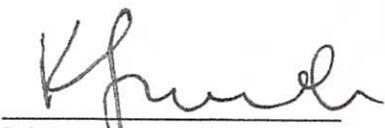
  
Print: DOUGLAS C. DACENA  
Witness

By:   
Caroline Simmons, Mayor

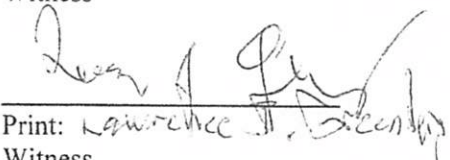
Date: 10/24/2022

Bridge Fee  
Print: BRIDGET FOX  
Witness


ATTORNEY  
  
By: Steven G. Mednick, Esq.

  
Print: Kara Laudano  
Witness

Date: 21 October 2022


  
Print: Lawrence J. Greenberg  
Witness

Approved as to Form:

  
Chris Dellaselva  
Asst. Corp. Counsel

Date: Oct. 27, 2022

Approved as to Insurance:

  
David Villalva  
Risk Manager *by Chris Dellaselva  
Asst. Corp. Counsel*

Date: Oct. 27, 2022