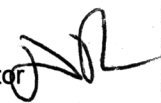


METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Date: June 21, 2010

To: COG Board of Directors
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Chief Administrative Officers Committee
Regional Attorneys Committee

From: David Robertson, Executive Director 

Subject: COG Legal Support

I am pleased to report that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has selected the law firm of Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner, PLLC to provide legal support and serve as COG's general counsel, effective July 1, 2010. Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner brings significant legal experience to COG representing public sector clients, including several local governments in the National Capital Region.

Earlier this year I advised the COG Board of Directors that COG would seek legal support on a contract/retainer basis following Lee Ruck's decision to retire from his position of General Counsel after eight years of steadfast support to COG. Mr. Ruck will retire June 30. Mr. Ruck has agreed to be available for consultation for the period July 1 through December 31 to ensure a smooth transition to Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner and complete any pending tasks.

In evaluating how to best meet COG's legal support needs, I concluded, with Mr. Ruck's feedback and senior management and COG Board input, that a retainer agreement will ensure that COG receives competent and cost-effective legal support. This approach is also used by many of COG's peer regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations.

COG issued a request for qualifications on March 31 that was widely disseminated to area law firms. COG held a pre-bid meeting on April 22 attended by representatives from 13 firms. Fifteen firms submitted proposals on May 14. Proposals were reviewed and three firms were selected for interview on June 3. The Chair of the COG Regional Attorneys Committee participated in the review and selection process.

Greenhan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner was established to provide outside legal consultants and litigation counsel for local governments. The firm focuses on representing localities and other public entities, as well as non-profits interested in public policy. Its attorneys have more than 100 cumulative years of experience working for, or on behalf of, local governments at the local, state and federal levels. Ms. Sharon Pandak will serve as the primary attorney for COG. Ms. Pandak worked for Prince William County, Virginia for 25 years, including 15 years as the County Attorney.

I will introduce Ms. Pandak to the COG Board of Directors and other policy boards beginning July, and of course, she and the attorneys and staff of Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner will be available to COG and its policy boards, committees and staff as necessary to ensure sound legal representation and support for COG

Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information. I may be reached at 202-962-3260 or drobertson@mwkog.org.