

July 25, 2002

To the Honorable Members of the
Judiciary & Legislation Committee
of the Common Council
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Request to Approve Common Council File No. 020610

Dear Committee Members:

The attached resolution requests authority to retain outside legal counsel for representation of the City of Milwaukee ("City") in litigation matters involving the Park East Freeway Removal Project. The Park East Freeway Removal Project is a joint project with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation ("WisDOT") and the City and the outside legal counsel's services in this regard will be eligible for inclusion as project expenses.

The unique nature of the acquisition issues involved in this project and its one-time nature have resulted in litigation that was not anticipated by the City or WisDOT in the planning stages of the project. To date, there are five pending actions (and more contemplated) in Milwaukee County Circuit Court involving commercial property owners challenging various aspects of the acquisition. These actions have severely taxed this department's resources and we need to turn to outside counsel, as other City agencies involved in this project have turned to outside consulting services. This office has solicited proposals from firms that we know are capable of handling this type of litigation and have selected the firm of Michael, Best & Friedrich, LLP on the basis of their familiarity with the types of issues involved in the pending and anticipated litigation and their experience in representing the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee on many of the same issues.

Very truly yours,

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

GFL/kg

Enclosures

c: Ronald D. Leonhardt
Chuck Graupner, Esq.

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