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March 13, 2007

The Honorable Common Council  
of the City of Milwaukee  
Room 205, City Hall

Re: Common Council File No. 061234/Resolution Authorizing the Proper City Officers to Enter into a Contract for the Overdue Municipal Court Judgments, and Approving the Contract

Dear Council Members:

On July 31, 2006, by Common Council File No. 060162, the Common Council authorized the City Attorney to request proposals for the collection contract for Overdue Municipal Court Judgments. The current contract expires on March 31, 2007, but has been extended one month to April 30, 2007, to accommodate the transition from the incumbent contractor.

The City's Outstanding Debt Collection Task Force recommended obtaining maximum competition for this procurement. The City Attorney's office advertised for proposals in three newspapers, three times in each, and arranged for an e-notify message that reached over 500 contacts.

We received a large number of inquiries and requests for the RFP. Six firms submitted proposals, all of which met the basic requirements of the RFP.

A team of evaluators – including representatives of this office, the Presiding Municipal Court Judge, the Municipal Court Administrator, and the City Purchasing Director reviewed the six proposals, conducted oral presentations and interviews, and ranked the proposals. The highest ranked proposer is Harris & Harris Ltd., based on: fees; expertise; experience; the extent to which the proposer can accommodate the City's methodology, need for access to information and EBE capabilities; and service delivery capabilities.

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Therefore, we have negotiated a contract for Common Council approval with Harris and Harris, Ltd. It contains a number of the recommendations of the Outstanding Debt Collection Task Force. In addition, the fees are considerably lower than those contained in the current contract.

Harris & Harris Ltd., is a nationally licensed debt collection firm located in Illinois and its law firm, the Law offices of Arnold Scott Harris, PC is an Illinois-licensed Professional Corporation. Harris & Harris, Ltd., will subcontract litigation work in Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin to the Case Law Firm, which is located in downtown Milwaukee. They have also subcontracted with a local EBE to meet the requirements for this procurement.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the negotiated contract and a proposed resolution approving it and authorizing its execution.

Very truly yours,

GRANT F. LANGLEY  
City Attorney

LINDA ULISS BURKE  
Deputy City Attorney

GENEVIEVE O'SULLIVAN-CROWLEY  
Assistant City Attorney

GOSC:  
Encs.

c: Mr. Ronald Leonhardt

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