

RESOLUTION NO. 20-1663

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR RFP 2020-09, STATE LOBBYING SERVICES TO THE SOUTHERN GROUP AND, SUN CITY STRATEGIES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR IN SUBSEQUENT TERMS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(PIDERMANN)**

WHEREAS, the Town of Miami Lakes (the “Town”) requires State Lobbying Services to stay aware of legislation that will benefit the Town and be proactive in supporting legislation that may impact the town and obtaining its benefits; and

WHEREAS, Section 5(b) of the Town’s Procurement Ordinance 17-203 provides that procurements in excess of \$15,000 shall require the use of competitive sealed bidding; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 5 of Town Ordinance 17-203, the Town issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) No. 2020-09 on December 5, 2019, for State Lobbying Services; and

WHEREAS, the RFP was advertised online via two public bidding websites, DemandStar and Public Purchase, and was physically posted in the Government Center Lobby; and

WHEREAS, the Town received three (3) proposals by the proposal deadline from Becker & Poliakoff, P.A. (“Becker”), Sun City Strategies (“Sun City”), and The Southern Group (“Southern Group”); and

WHEREAS, the Town’s Procurement Department performed a due diligence review of the proposals for responsiveness and found that all three (3) of the proposals were responsive; and

WHEREAS, an Evaluation Committee was appointed comprised of the following individuals: Ismael Diaz, Renee Wilson, Omar Santos; and Tony Lopez; and

WHEREAS, the Committee met on January 28, 2020 to evaluate the responsive proposals, but were not comfortable ranking the Proposals as some references had not been verified; consequently, the evaluation committee suspended their meeting, conducted additional due diligence, and reconvened on February 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Committee ranked the proposers in the following order: Southern Group with a total of 392 Points, Becker with a total of 300.68 Points, and Sun City with a total of 297 points; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive the award, the Proposer must not have an outstanding or open, or liquidated claim by the Town against the Proposer for monies owed to the Town at the time of the Proposal submission; and

WHEREAS, the Town has an outstanding claim for recovery of damages, including attorney’s fees and costs, against Becker as a result of misconduct by one or more lobbyist which resulted in extensive litigation with former mayor, Michael Pizzi, Jr., which continues; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, Southern Group, and Sun City as a sub-contractor for Southern Group have provided valuable lobbying services to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council approves the recommendations of the Town Manager, and authorizes the Town Manager to execute a contract with The Southern Group, and/ negotiate and execute a separate agreement with Sun City Strategies for State Lobbying Services in an amount not to exceed \$24,000 per agreement, \$48,000 in the aggregate, per year .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of the Contract. The Town Council hereby approves the award of a contract to The Southern Group, and grants the Town Manager with authority to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Sun City Strategies, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A” for State Lobbying Services in an amount not to exceed \$48,000 per year (up to \$24,000 per contract) (hereinafter referred to as “Contract(s)”).

Section 3. Authorization of Town Officials. The Town Manager, his designee and the Town Attorney are authorized to take all steps necessary to implement the terms and conditions of the Contract(s).

Section 4. Authorization of Fund Expenditure. The Town Manager is authorized to expend budgeted funds to implement the terms and conditions of this Resolution and the Contract(s).

Section 5. Execution of the Contract. The Town Manager is authorized to execute the Contract(s) with The Southern Group and Sun City Strategies in an amount not to exceed \$48,000 per year (up to \$24,000 per contract) and to execute any extension and/or amendments to the Contract(s), subject to approval as to form and legality by the Town Attorney.


Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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Passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2020.

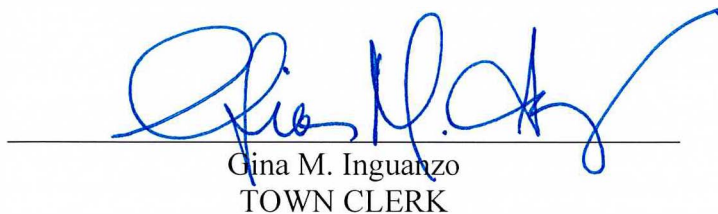
The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Dieguez who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Manny Cid	Yes
Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez	Yes
Councilmember Carlos Alvarez	Yes
Councilmember Luis Collazo	Yes
Councilmember Joshua Dieguez	Yes
Councilmember Jeffrey Rodriguez	Yes
Councilmember Marilyn Ruano	Absent



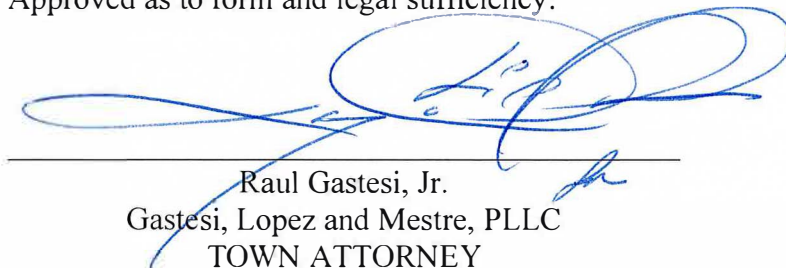
Manny Cid
MAYOR

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:



Raul Gastesi, Jr.
Gastesi, Lopez and Mestre, PLLC
TOWN ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT A

Agreement
between the
Town of Miami Lakes
and

for

State Lobbying Services, RFP 2020-09