



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Office of the County Attorney

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

April 11, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
County of Westchester
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

Attached for your consideration is an Act which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to consent to the assignment and amendment of an outside counsel agreement (the "Agreement") with Mondaire Jones, Esq. ("Mr. Jones"), for the provision of legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission (the "Commission"), to the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins LLP (the "Firm"), effective April 2, 2025.

On March 10, 2025 by Act No. 58-2025, your Honorable Board authorized the County to retain Mr. Jones, at County expense, to provide legal counsel and advice to the Commission (the "Services"), for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026. Act No. 58-2025 further authorized the County to pay Mr. Jones at the rate of \$500.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00). The Agreement was subsequently executed.

On March 29, 2025, Mr. Jones informed the Law Department that effective April 2, 2025, he would be joining the Firm, but would continue to provide the Services to the County as a member of the Firm. In order for him to do so, it will be necessary to assign the Agreement from Mr. Jones to the Firm. Accordingly, authority is respectfully requested for the County to consent to the assignment of the Agreement with Mr. Jones, to the Firm, effective April 2, 2025. Authority is further requested to amend the Agreement, as assigned to the Firm, to incorporate the Firm's engagement letter, to require the Firm to maintain professional liability insurance for the services to be rendered by Mr. Jones, and to require the Firm to complete the County's Electronic Funds Transfer Form.

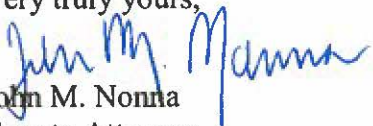
For the Services rendered to the County by the Firm, the Firm will be paid at the rate of \$500.00 per hour for the services of Mr. Jones, who will be the principal attorney providing Services to the Commission. If timekeepers, other than Mr. Jones, are needed to provide Services under the Agreement, the Firm will bill the County at its regular hourly rates ranging from \$655 per hour to \$2,100 per hour for attorneys, and from \$295 per hour to \$375 per hour for legal assistants. The

Firm's use of timekeepers other than Mr. Jones, will be subject to the prior approval of the Chair of the Commission and the County Attorney. In no event shall the total amount payable by the County to the Firm exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

Except as specifically provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Based upon the foregoing, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached Act is most respectfully requested.

Very truly yours,


John M. Nonna
County Attorney

JMN/nn
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a proposed Act transmitted by the County Attorney which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to consent to the assignment and amendment of an outside counsel agreement (the “Agreement”) with Mondaire Jones, Esq. (“Mr. Jones”), for the provision of legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission (the “Commission”), to the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins LLP (the “Firm”), effective April 2, 2025.

On March 10, 2025 by Act No. 58-2025, your Honorable Board authorized the County to retain Mr. Jones, at County expense, to provide legal counsel and advice to the Commission (the “Services”), for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026. Act No. 58-2025 further authorized the County to pay Mr. Jones at the rate of \$500.00 per hour, for an amount not to exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00). The Agreement was subsequently executed.

On March 29, 2025, Mr. Jones informed the Law Department that effective April 2, 2025, he would be joining the Firm, but would continue to provide the Services to the County as a member of the Firm. In order for him to do so, it will be necessary to assign the Agreement from Mr. Jones to the Firm. Accordingly, authority is respectfully requested for the County to consent to the assignment of the Agreement with Mr. Jones, to the Firm, effective April 2, 2025.

Authority is further requested to amend the Agreement, as assigned to the Firm, to incorporate the Firm’s engagement letter, to require the Firm to maintain professional liability insurance to cover the Services to be rendered by Mr. Jones, and to require the Firm to complete the County’s Electronic Funds Transfer Form.

For the Services rendered to the County by the Firm, the Firm will be paid at the rate of \$500.00 per hour for the services of Mr. Jones, who will be the principal attorney providing Services to the Commission. If timekeepers, other than Mr. Jones, are needed to provide Services under the Agreement, the Firm will bill the County at its regular hourly rates ranging from \$655 per hour to \$2,100 per hour for attorneys, and from \$295 per hour to \$375 per hour for legal assistants.

The Firm's use of timekeepers, other than Mr. Jones, will be subject to the prior approval of the Chair of the Commission and the County Attorney. In no event shall the total amount payable by the County to the Firm exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

Except as specifically provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed retainer agreement does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. As such, no environmental review is required. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

An affirmative vote of a majority of the voting strength of the Board is required for approval of the attached Act. Your Committee recommends approval of the attached Act.

Dated: , 2025

White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

c.jpg 04.9.25

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Charter Revision Amendment

☐ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

☒ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense NTE \$100,000.00

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): ☒ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 101_18_1000_4923

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses:

Annual Amount N/A

Describe: An act authorizing Westchester County to consent to the assignment and amendment of an agreement with Mondaire Jones, Esq. for the provision of legal counsel to the County Charter Revision Commission, to the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins on April 2, 2025.

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues:

Annual Amount N/A

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: N/A

Next Four Years: N/A

Prepared by: Patricia Haggerty

Title: Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: April 10, 2025

Reviewed By: 

PH
@

Budget Director

Date: 4/10/25

ACT NO. 2025 - _____

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to consent to the assignment and amendment of an agreement with Mondaire Jones, Esq. for the provision of legal counsel and advice to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission, to the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins LLP, effective April 2, 2025.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

Section 1. The County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to consent to the assignment of its agreement (the "Agreement") with Mondaire Jones, Esq. ("Mr. Jones"), for the provision of legal counsel and advice (the "Services") to the Westchester County Charter Revision Commission (the "Commission"), for a term commencing February 25, 2025 and continuing through February 24, 2026, to the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler Adelman & Robbins LLP (the "Firm"), effective April 2, 2025.

§2. The County is hereby further authorized to amend the Agreement, as assigned to the Firm, to incorporate the Firm's engagement letter, to require the Firm to maintain professional liability insurance to cover the Services to be rendered by Mr. Jones, and to require the Firm to complete the County's Electronic Funds Transfer Form.

§3. For the Services rendered to the County by the Firm, the County is hereby authorized to pay the Firm at the rate of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars per hour for the services of Mr. Jones, who will be the principal attorney providing Services to the Commission.

§4. If timekeepers, other than Mr. Jones, are needed to provide Services under the Agreement, the County is hereby authorized to pay the Firm at the Firm's regular hourly rates ranging from Six Hundred Fifty-Five (\$655.00) Dollars per hour to Two Thousand One Hundred (\$2,100.00) Dollars per hour for attorneys, and from Two Hundred Ninety-Five (\$295.00) Dollars per hour to Three Hundred Seventy-Five (\$375.00) Dollars per hour for legal assistants. The Firm's use of timekeepers other than Mr. Jones, will be subject to the prior approval of the Chair of the Commission and the County Attorney.

§5. In no event shall the total amount payable by the County to the Firm exceed the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

§6. Except as specifically provided herein, all terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

§7. This Act shall take effect immediately.