



George Latimer
County Executive

Office of the County Attorney

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

February 16, 2023

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

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith is legislation which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to retroactively amend an outside counsel agreement (the "Agreement") with the Wicks Group, PLLC (the "Firm") for the provision of legal services relating to the Westchester County Airport (the "Airport"), by extending the term of the Agreement for an additional six (6) months, from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and by increasing the not-to-exceed cap by an additional \$50,000.00.

On February 7, 2022 by Act No. 2022-4, your Honorable Board authorized the County to retain the Firm for the provision of outside counsel services related to the Airport, as needed, concerning matters in which the Firm had specific expertise not otherwise available in-house, including, but not limited to, compliance with federal law and FAA regulations, application and enforcement of the terminal use procedures, the terminal use agreement and airport tenant agreements within the regulatory environment, as well as developments in airport law, for a one (1) year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022. In consideration for services rendered, Act No. 2022-4 authorized the County to pay the Firm at the blended hourly rate of \$380.00 for all lawyers, not-to-exceed the aggregate sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

Over the course of the coming months, my office intends to issue a Request for Proposals to survey the market with respect to the availability of qualified and cost-effective airport counsel. In the interim, the County continues to require the services of the Firm to provide on-going legal counsel concerning various legal issues affecting the Airport. Accordingly, the authority of your Honorable Board is respectfully requested to retroactively amend the Agreement with the Firm to extend the term thereof for an additional six (6) months, from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and to increase the not-to-exceed cap by an additional Fifty-Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, from an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, to an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars. It should be noted that in 2022, the Firm was paid approximately \$78,000.00 for its services.

For the aforesaid services rendered to the County by the Firm, the Firm will continue to be paid at the blended rate of Three Hundred Eighty (\$380.00) Dollars per hour for all lawyers.

It should be noted that this contract will be funded through the Airport Special Revenue Fund, and no tax levy funds will be involved.

The Planning Department has advised that the proposed outside counsel 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 12, 2023, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.

Accordingly, I respectfully recommend your Honorable Board's approval of the attached Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Nonna".

John M. Nonna
County Attorney

JMN/jpg

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of a communication from the County Attorney recommending the enactment of an Act which, if adopted by this Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”) to retroactively amend an outside counsel agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Wicks Group, PLLC (the “Firm”) for the provision of various legal services in connection with the Westchester County Airport (the “Airport”), by extending the term of the Agreement for an additional six (6) months, from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and by increasing the not-to-exceed cap by an additional \$50,000.00.

On February 7, 2022 by Act No. 2022-4, your Honorable Board authorized the County to retain the Firm to provide outside counsel services related to the Airport, as needed, concerning matters in which the Firm had specific expertise not otherwise available in-house, including, but not limited to, compliance with federal law and FAA regulations, application and enforcement of the terminal use procedures, the terminal use agreement and airport tenant agreements within the regulatory environment, as well as developments in airport law, for a one (1) year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and continuing through December 31, 2022. In consideration for services rendered, Act No. 2022-4 authorized the County to pay the Firm at the blended hourly rate of \$380.00 for all lawyers, not-to-exceed the aggregate sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars.

The County Attorney has advised your Committee that over the course of the coming months, his office intends to issue a Request for Proposals to survey the market with respect to the availability of qualified and cost-effective airport counsel. In the interim, the County continues to require the services of the Firm to provide on-going legal counsel concerning various legal issues affecting the Airport. Accordingly, the authority of your Honorable Board is respectfully requested to retroactively amend the Agreement with the Firm to extend the term thereof for an additional six (6) months, from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and to increase the not-to-exceed cap by an additional Fifty-Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, from an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, to an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars. It should be noted that in 2022, the Firm was paid approximately \$78,000.00 for its services.

Your Committee is advised that for the aforesaid services rendered to the County by the Firm, the Firm will continue to be paid at the blended rate of Three Hundred Eighty (\$380.00) Dollars per hour for all lawyers.

Your Committee is informed that this contract will be funded through the Airport Special Revenue Fund. As such, no tax levy funds will be involved.

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

Accordingly, your Committee concurs with the County Attorney's recommendation and requests approval of the attached Act.

Dated: _____, 2023
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Wicks Group, PLLC

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 \$ 50,000

Total Current Year Revenue _____

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

Additional Appropriations

Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: 161- 44- 4110- 4420

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \$50,000

Describe: An ACT authorizing the County to retroactively amend an outside counsel agreement for the provision of various legal services related to the Airport, extending the term through June 30, 2023 and increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$50,000

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount _____

Describe: n/a

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

Current Year: n/a

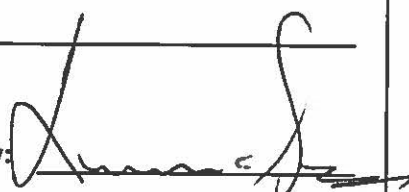
Next Four Years: n/a

Prepared by: Debra Ogden

Title: Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: February 17, 2023

Reviewed By: 

Budget Director

Date: 2/17/23

ACT NO. 2023 - _____

AN ACT authorizing the County to retroactively amend an outside counsel agreement with the Wicks Group, PLLC for the provision of various legal services related to the Westchester County Airport, by extending the term of the agreement for an additional six (6) months commencing on January 1, 2023, and by increasing the not-to-exceed cap by an additional \$50,000.00.

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

Section 1. The County of Westchester is hereby authorized to retroactively amend an outside counsel agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Wicks Group, PLLC (the “Firm”) for the provision of various legal services relating to the Westchester County Airport (the “Airport”), by extending the term of the Agreement for an additional six (6) months, from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and by increasing the not-to-exceed cap by an additional Fifty-Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars, from an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars, to an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars.

§2. For the aforesaid services rendered to the County during the extended term, the Firm shall continue to be paid at the blended rate of Three Hundred Eighty (\$380.00) Dollars per hour for all lawyers.

§3. The County Executive or his authorized designee, be and hereby is authorized to execute all instruments and to take all actions reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

§4. This Act shall take effect immediately.