TAMARAC
The City For Your Life

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1.c

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: January 8, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Neysa Herrera

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Item

AGENDA SECTION: Agenda

TITLE: Discussion regarding The Ferguson Group Lobbying Services Agreement: Federal Lobbyist
Presented by Neysa Herrera, Chief of Staff

BACKGROUND: In February 2008, the City entered into an agreement for Federal lobbying services with The Ferguson Group, LLC. The original two-year agreement provided that upon expiration, the parties could choose to extend the agreement annually. The Ferguson Group specializes in representing local governments and public agencies and provides assistance and counsel on appropriations, federal grants and legislative policy matters. Over the course of the agreement, the City has worked with The Ferguson Group to affect and/or support legislative issues of importance to the City of Tamarac and to identify sources of funding for key City projects, through both the appropriation and grant process.

In recent years, the city, with help from the Ferguson team, has kept an eye on federal funding opportunities and crafted grant applications. The Ferguson team's support in 2022 helped the city land a $350,000 federal grant for a First-Time Homebuyers program, succeeding on the first attempt with a new Congress member after a ten-year pause in earmarks. In 2023, the Ferguson Group and the City collaborated with Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick on a $1 million funding proposal for the Tamarac Rehabilitation and Rebuild program, which is currently pending approval in Congress.

The Ferguson Group will continue to focus on identifying sources of earmarks and grant funding for specific City projects.

We continue to seek congressional support for major projects. The following requests remain at the focal point for

congressional consideration.

- Economic development and redevelopment
- Infrastructure and Technology upgrades
- Parks related projects
- Public safety and emergency preparedness response
- Arterial corridor redevelopment
- Water and sewer projects

The existing agreement provides that the Ferguson Group will plan and implement legislative strategies designed to accomplish the City's initiatives, assist in the preparation of supporting materials for the initiatives, develop meetings with members of Congress and staff to advance the initiatives, and serve as a liaison to federal agencies relevant to the initiatives.

The proposed amendment to the agreement provides for continuation of services at the current rate of $85,500 per year through February 12, 2025, under the same terms and conditions as the existing agreement. The agreement provides for no additional fees or expenses other than those related to out- of-town travel and travel between Washington and Florida. All travel expenses are subject to prior approval by the City.

ISSUE: Discussion about Amendment #15 to the agreement between the City of Tamarac and The Ferguson Group, LLC providing for Federal lobbying services for an additional one-year period.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ferguson Group Amendment #15 (003).pdf
Tamarac Federal Advocacy Results 2023.pdf