



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

RESOLUTION 21-005

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR
PROFESSIONAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR TAX APPEAL AND TAX LITIGATION MATTERS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands has a need for professional legal counsel services for tax appeal and tax litigation matters: and

WHEREAS, such professional legal services can only be provided by licensed professionals and the firm of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone, P.A. is so recognized; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, this contract is to be awarded as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 at an hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 plus reimbursable expenses for professional services; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firm of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone, P.A. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the Law Firm has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Highlands in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit the Law Firm from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone, P.A. has completed and submitted a Political Contribution Disclosure form in accordance with P.L. 2005, c271, and

WHEREAS, certification of availability of funds has been provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Highlands contingent upon the adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:1 1-1 et. seq. requires that notice with respect to contracts for professional services awarded without competitive bids must be publicly advertised;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Borough Council of the Borough of Highlands as follows:

1. That Blake Laurence, Esq. of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone, P.A. is hereby appointed and retained to provide professional legal counsel services for tax appeal and tax litigation matters as described above for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
2. That Blake Laurence, Esq. of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone, P.A. is hereby retained at an hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 plus reimbursable expenses for professional services.
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-5(1)(a)(i) because it is for services performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to sign the contract.

4. A copy of the Resolution as well as the contract shall be placed on file with the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highlands.
5. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to publish notice of this award as required by law.

Motion to Approve R-21-005:

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Martin			X			
Mazzola		X	X			
Melnyk			X			
Olszewski			X			
Broullon	X		X			

I, Michelle Hutchinson, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of the action of the Governing Body, at its Council Meeting, held January 1, 2021.



Michelle Hutchinson
Acting Municipal Clerk