City of Union City Request for Proposals for Special Tax Appeal Counsel for the City of Union City from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027

Introduction

Pursuant to the Fair and Open Process described under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1, et seq., the City of Union City ("City") seeks proposals in response to this Request for Proposals ("RFP") from law firms licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey that wish to provide legal and litigation services to the City with regard to tax appeals, as directed by the Corporation Counsel, the Board of Commissioners of Commissioners of other appropriate official within the City for a contract period from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. All candidates are required to comply with N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq. as amended. (Affirmative Action. See Exhibit A included herewith). The successful firm must have significant experience in representing New Jersey municipalities in Tax Court and County Boards of Taxation. The successful firm will provide the City with legal guidance relating to tax appeals, but not necessarily limited to:

1. Legal research and/or advisory opinions as needed;

2. Draft pleadings and stipulations of settlement related to tax appeals.

3. Represent the City in litigation in federal and state courts and administrative forums with regard to tax appeal issues;

4. Attend meetings of the Board of Commissioners and/or Committees upon request;

5. Conduct programs on specified legal issues for appropriate elected officials and/or city employees upon request;

6. Any other matters as directed by the City.

7. The vendor shall provide monthly billing statements that include a brief statement showing the original amount of the Contract, any increases established by amendment to the Contract, the amount previously billed under the Contract, and the total amount of unbilled funds remaining available under the Contract, and the total amount of unbilled funds remaining available under the Contract after deduction of the most recent amount billed. A copy of each billing statement shall be made available to the State Fiscal Oversight Officer upon request.

Each candidate shall submit proof of business registration with the New Jersey Division of Taxation (P.L. 2004, C.57) prior to the award of contract but preferably with their proposal, and must comply with the Affirmative Action requirement contained at N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq. (See Exhibit A included herewith).

Proposers are advised that the contract with the successful proposer will permit the City to make payments to the successful proposer for approved services in accordance with, and within the time permitted by, the law governing prompt payment of public contracts for the purchase of goods and services.

Professional Information and Qualifications

Copies of this standardized submission requirements and selection criteria are on file and available from the Office of the City Clerk. In addition to the forms included herewith, each interested firm shall submit the following information:

1. Name of Firm;

2. Address of principal place of business and all attorneys or firm's offices and corresponding telephone and fax numbers. Please note specifically which attorneys will be assigned to work with the City;

3. Areas of Practice;

4. Description of firm's attorneys' education, experience, qualifications, number of years with the firm and a description of their experience with projects similar to those described above;

5. Experience related to representation of public entities with regard to tax appeal issues;

6. At least four (4) references, three (3) of which must have knowledge of your representation of a public entity on tax appeal issues;

7. Examples of your record of success representing public entities on tax appeal issues;

8. The firm's ability to provide the services in a timely fashion (including staffing, familiarity and location of key staff);

9. Cost details, including the hourly rates of each of the individuals who will perform the services and the time estimates for each individual, all expenses, and where appropriate, total cost of "not to exceed" amount;

10. Statement of Ownership Disclosure (c.52:25-24.2) (form provided);

11. Disclosure of Investment Activities in Iran Form (prior to the award of contract but preferably with the proposal. Form provided);

12. Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus (Prior to the award of contract but preferably with the proposal. Form provided);

13. Business Registration Certificate (prior to award of contract but preferably with the proposal);

14. Statement, see attached, executed by a corporate officer, member, partner or sole proprietor certifying that there are no prior or pending ethics complaints against them or their company;

15. The successful proposer must comply with the requirements set forth in the Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity language included herewith (Exhibit A); and

16. The contract for the service will contain the following language: The sub-grantee, contractor, subcontractor, successor, transferee, and assignees shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from excluding from a program or activity, denying benefits of, or otherwise discriminating against a person on the basis of race, color, or national origin (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), as implemented by the U.S. Treasury's Title VI regulations, 31 CFR Part 22, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract (or agreement). Title VI also includes protection to persons with "Limited English Proficiency" in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., as implemented by the U.S. Treasury's Title VI regulations, 31 CFR Part 22, and herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract or agreement.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria used in awarding a contract or agreement for professional services as described herein shall include:

1. Qualifications of the individuals who will perform the tasks and the amounts of their respective participation;

2. Experience and references;

3. Ability to perform the task in a timely fashion, including staffing and familiarity with the subject matter;

4. Cost competitiveness; and

5. Due consideration will be given to familiarity with pending tax appeal litigation against the City and its officials.

Submission Requirements

Sealed proposals will be publicly opened by the Union City Clerk in her offices at Union City Hall, 3715 Palisade Avenue, Union City, at 11:15 am on November 23, 2026. The sealed proposal must be received no later than 11:15 am on November 23, 2026 by:

Hilda I. Rosario, City Clerk
City of Union City
3715 Palisade Avenue
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Please submit one original and two (2) copies of the RFP. Use white 8 ½" x 11" paper.

STATEMENT CONCERNING ETHICS COMPLAINTS

I, _____, of full age and to the best of my knowledge and belief, as of the date of this Certification, hereby certify as follows:

1. I am the _____ in connection with the firm, entity, partnership, sole proprietorship which entity is submitting this proposal to the City of Union City.

2. I am aware of no prior or pending ethics complaints against myself or any firm or entity.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: _____ By: _____

Print Name: _____

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 (P.L. 1977, c.33, as amended by P.L. 2016, c.43)

This statement shall be completed, certified to, and included with all bid and proposal submissions. Failure to submit the required information is cause for automatic rejection of the bid or proposal.

Name of Organization: _____

Organization Address: _____

Part I Check the box that represents the type of business organization:

☐ Sole Proprietorship (skip Parts II and III, execute certification in Part IV)
☐ Non-Profit Corporation (skip Parts II and III, execute certification in Part IV)
☐ For-Profit Corporation (any type) ☐ Limited Liability Company (LLC)
☐ Partnership ☐ Limited Partnership ☐ Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
☐ Other (be specific): _____

Part II

☐ The list below contains the names and addresses of all stockholders in the corporation who own 10 percent or more of its stock, of any class, or of all individual partners in the partnership who own a 10 percent or greater interest therein, or of all members in the limited liability company who own a 10 percent or greater interest therein, as the case may be. (**COMPLETE THE LIST BELOW IN THIS SECTION**)

OR

☐ No one stockholder in the corporation owns 10 percent or more of its stock, of any class, or no individual partner in the partnership owns a 10 percent or greater interest therein, or no member in the limited liability company owns a 10 percent or greater interest therein, as the case may be. (**SKIP TO PART IV**)

(Please attach additional sheets if more space is needed):

Name of Individual or Business Entity	Home Address (for Individuals) or Business Address

Part III DISCLOSURE OF 10% OR GREATER OWNERSHIP IN THE STOCKHOLDERS, PARTNERS OR LLC MEMBERS LISTED IN PART II

If a bidder has a direct or indirect parent entity which is publicly traded, and any person holds a 10 percent or greater beneficial interest in the publicly traded parent entity as of the last annual federal Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) or foreign equivalent filing, ownership disclosure can be met by providing links to the website(s) containing the last annual filing(s) with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (or foreign equivalent) that contain the name and address of each person holding a 10% or greater beneficial interest in the publicly traded parent entity, along with the relevant page numbers of the filing(s) that contain the information on each such person. **Attach additional sheets if more space is needed**.

Website (URL) containing the last annual SEC (or foreign equivalent) filing	Page #'s

Please list the names and addresses of each stockholder, partner or member owning a 10 percent or greater interest in any corresponding corporation, partnership and/or limited liability company (LLC) listed in Part II **other than for any publicly traded parent entities referenced above**. The disclosure shall be continued until names and addresses of every noncorporate stockholder, and individual partner, and member exceeding the 10 percent ownership criteria established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 has been listed. **Attach additional sheets if more space is needed.**

Stockholder/Partner/Member and Corresponding Entity Listed in Part II	Home Address (for Individuals) or Business Address

Part IV Certification

I, being duly sworn upon my oath, hereby represent that the foregoing information and any attachments thereto to the best of my knowledge are true and complete. I acknowledge: that I am authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the bidder/proposer; that the City of Union City is relying on the information contained herein and that I am under a continuing obligation from the date of this certification through the completion of any contracts with City to notify City in writing of any changes to the information contained herein; that I am aware that it is a criminal offense to make a false statement or misrepresentation in this certification, and if I do so, I am subject to criminal prosecution under the law and that it will constitute a material breach of my agreement(s) with the, permitting the City of Union City to declare any contract(s) resulting from this certification void and unenforceable.

Full Name (Print):		Title:	
Signature:		Date:	

DISCLOSURE OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

PART 1: CERTIFICATION

BIDDERS MUST COMPLETE PART 1 BY CHECKING EITHER BOX.

FAILURE TO CHECK EITHER BOX WILL RENDER THE PROPOSAL NON-RESPONSIVE.

Pursuant to Public Law 2012, c. 25, any person or entity that submits a bid or proposal or otherwise proposes to enter into or renew a contract must complete the certification below to attest, under penalty of perjury, that neither the person or entity, nor any of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates, is identified on the Department of Treasury's Chapter 25 list as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran. The Chapter 25 list is found on the Division's website at http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/pdf/Chapter25List.pdf. Bidders **must** review this list prior to completing the below certification. **Failure to complete the certification will render a bidder's proposal non-responsive**. If the Director finds a person or entity to be in violation of law, s/he shall take action as may be appropriate and provided by law, rule or contract, including but not limited to, imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party.

PLEASE CHECK EITHER BOX:

☐ **I certify, pursuant to Public Law 2012, c. 25, that neither the person/entity listed above nor any of the entity's parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates is listed** on the N.J. Department of the Treasury's list of entities determined to be engaged in prohibited activities in Iran pursuant to P.L. 2012, c. 25 ("Chapter 25 List"). I further certify that I am the person listed above, or I am an officer or representative of the entity listed above and am authorized to make this certification on its behalf. **I will skip Part 2 and sign and complete the Certification**

OR

☐ **I am unable to certify as above because I or the bidding entity and/or one or more of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates is listed on the Department's Chapter 25 list. I will provide a detailed, accurate and precise description of the activities in Part 2 below and sign and complete the Certification below**. Failure to provide such will result in the proposal being rendered as non-responsive and appropriate penalties, fines and/or sanctions will be assessed as provided by law.

Part 2

PLEASE PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

You must provide a detailed, accurate and precise description of the activities of the bidding person/entity, or one of its parents, subsidiaries or affiliates, engaging in the investment activities in Iran outlined above by completing the boxes below.

PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. PLEASE PROVIDE THOROUGH ANSWERS TO EACH QUESTION. IF YOU NEED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL ENTRIES, USE ADDITIONAL PAGES

Name:_____ Relationship to Bidder/Vendor:_____

Description of Activities:

_____

_____

Duration of Engagement:_____Anticipated Cessation Date_____

Bidder/Vendor_____

Contact Name:_____Contact Phone Number:_____

Certification: I, being duly sworn upon my oath, hereby represent and state that the foregoing information and any attachments thereto to the best of my knowledge are true and complete. I attest that I am authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the below-referenced person or entity. I acknowledge that the City of Union City is relying on the information contained herein and thereby acknowledge that I am under a continuing obligation from the date of this certification through the completion of contracts with the City to notify the City in writing of any changes to the answers of information contained herein. I acknowledge that I am aware that it is a criminal offense to make a false statement or misrepresentation in this certification, and if I do so, I recognize that I am subject to criminal prosecution under the law and that it will also constitute a material breach of my agreements(s) with the City of Union City and that the City at its option may declare any contract(s) resulting from this certification void and unenforceable.

Full Name (Print): _____Signature:_____

Title: _____Date: _____

Bidder/Vendor:_____

CERTIFICATION OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN

RUSSIA OR BELARUS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq. (L. 2022, c. 3) any person or entity (hereinafter "Vendor[i]") that seeks to enter into or renew a contract with a State agency for the provision of goods or services, or the purchase of bonds or other obligations, must complete the certification below indicating whether or not the Vendor is identified on the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, available here: https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/. If the Department of the Treasury finds that a Vendor has made a certification in violation of the law, it shall take any action as may be appropriate and provided by law, rule or contract, including but not limited to, imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party.

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read the definition of "Vendor" below, and have reviewed the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, and having done so certify:

(Check the Circle the Appropriate letter)

A. That the Vendor is not identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus.

OR

B. That I am unable to certify as to "A" above, because the Vendor is identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus.

OR

C. That I am unable to certify as to "A" above, because the Vendor is identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list. However, the Vendor is engaged in activity related to Russia and/or Belarus consistent with federal law, regulation, license or exemption. A detailed description of how the Vendor's activity related to Russia and/or Belarus is consistent with federal law is set forth below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary.)

Signature of Vendor's Authorized Representative	Date
Print Name and Title of Vendor's Authorized Representative	Vendor's FEIN
Vendor's Name	Vendor's Phone Number
Vendor's Address (Street Address)	Vendor's Fax Number
Vendor's Address (City/State/Zip Code)	Vendor's Email Address

[i] Vendor means: (1) A natural person, corporation, company, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, business association, sole proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, society, trust, or any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group; (2) Any governmental entity or instrumentality of a government, including a multilateral development institution, as defined in Section1701(c)(3) of the International Financial Institutions Act, 22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(3); or (3) Any parent, successor, subunit, direct or indirect subsidiary, or any entity under common ownership or control with, any entity described in paragraph (1) or (2).

EXHIBIT A

MANDATORY EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY LANGUAGE
N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. (P.L.1975, c.127)
N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.

GOODS, GENERAL SERVICES, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS

During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such equal employment opportunity shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex.

The contractor or subcontractor will send to each labor union, with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union of the contractor's commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

EXHIBIT A *(Cont)*

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, and labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

In conforming with the targeted employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents:

Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval;

Certificate of Employee Information Report; or

Employee Information Report Form AA-302 (electronically provided by the Division and distributed to the public agency through the Division's website at: http:// www.state.nj.us/treasury/contract_compliance/.

The contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Purchase & Property, CCAU, EEO Monitoring Program as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Division of Purchase & Property, CCAU, EEO Monitoring Program for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-1.1 et seq.