

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Human Resources

Date: December 3, 2008
To: Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Subject: Ethics Officer Report Pursuant to Minneapolis City Ordinance § 15.40(b)(4)
Recommendation: That the Committee receive and file this report.

Prepared by: Susan L. Trammell, Minneapolis Ethics Officer

Approved by: _____
Susan Segal
City Attorney

Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri, Intergovernmental Relations Director

Report:

Minneapolis Code of Ethics, Section 15.40(b)(4) requires that the Ethics Officer report to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee the projects, if any, that create a professional conflict of interest for the City's proposed lobbyists. The Ethics Ordinance, § 15.40(b)(4) defines professional conflict of interest as "a situation where the interest of a principal of the lobbyist are or may be adverse to the interests of the city."

The Intergovernmental Relations Department (IGR) has informed the Ethics Officer of the intention to enter into lobbying contracts for the 2008 and 2009 federal legislative sessions with Patton Boggs, LLP. Patton Boggs, LLP supplied a link to the U. S. Senate website containing Patton Boggs disclosures filed to comply with the Lobbying Disclosure Act for the third quarter 2008. IGR reviewed the data contained on the U.S. Senate website and produced a spreadsheet of principals and lobbying issues.

Both IGR and the Ethics Officer reviewed the Patton Boggs spreadsheet of principals and lobbying issues for professional conflict of interest. At this time we found no situations where the interests of the City may be adverse to those of Patton Boggs' principals. Patton Boggs is required by Code of Ethics, § 15.40(b)(4) to update their list of principals and lobbying issues whenever there is a change. IGR will continue to monitor the potential for conflicts through the length of the Patton Boggs contract.