

CITY OF VINELAND, NJ

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 65

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE HONORABLE JULIO MENDEZ, A.J.S.C., RET'D VINELAND, NEW JERSEY AND THE CITY OF VINELAND FOR SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES AS HEARING OFFICER AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS FOR THE CITY OF VINELAND.

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland has, from time to time, substantial disciplinary issues which require the services of hearings officer with experience in such matters including issues with Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland has a need to acquire such professional legal services to assist the City in properly and fairly mediating and hearing disciplinary matters as well as litigation specialist as a Non-Fair and Open Contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Julio Mendez is a retired Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey and has extensive knowledge and experience in adjudicating matters and assisting in the resolution of disputes between parties and has served the City of Vineland as the Solicitor for several years prior to his appointment to the Bench and has submitted a proposal to serve the City as Special Counsel for Hearing Officer Services, Dispute Resolution, Legal Opinions, Litigation Support and Evidence Review among other services at an hourly rate of \$400.00 on an as needed basis; and

WHEREAS, Judge Mendez has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair And Open Contract which certifies that he has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the City of Vineland in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit His Honor from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract or its extension to a political or candidate committee in the City of Vineland; and

WHEREAS, the availability of funds for said Professional Services Contract to be awarded have been certified by the City CFO; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40 A: 11 — 1, et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for Professional Services without competitive bidding and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Vineland as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a Non-Fair and Open Agreement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 with the Honorable Julio Mendez, A.J.S.C. Ret'd, Vineland, New Jersey for Professional Services for Special Legal Counsel for Civil Service Disciplinary Hearings, Mediation Dispute Resolution, Legal Opinions,

Litigation Support and Evidence Review among other legal services at an hourly rate of \$400.00 on an as needed basis as set forth in the proposal dated January 25, 2025 attached hereto and made a part hereof in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

2. That this Professional Services Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40 A: 11 — 5 (l)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because said services to be rendered or performed require knowledge of an advanced type in a field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized instruction distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training. .
3. That the Business Disclosure Entity Certification, the Political Contribution Disclosure Form and the Determination of Value be placed on file with the Resolution.
4. That a notice of this action shall be printed once in the Daily Journal.

Adopted: February 11, 2025

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President of Council      pfs

ATTEST:

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City Clerk      kp

## Proposal to serve as Hearing Officer for City of Vineland

From: jjlm56@aol.com (jjlm56@aol.com)

To: sbarse@vinelandcity.org

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 09:25 AM EST

### **Proposal to perform Hearing Officer Services to the City of Vineland**

**To:** City of Vineland, Att. Stephen Barse, Esq. Assistant Solicitor of the City of Vineland

**From:** Julio Mendez, Retired Assignment Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey

**Subject:** Proposal for Services as Hearing Officer for Disciplinary Matters

**Date:** January 15, 2025

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#### **Introduction:**

This proposal outlines my qualifications and willingness to provide professional hearing officer services for the City of Vineland in handling disciplinary matters, including those related to Civil Service issues. With significant experience in adjudicating legal and personnel disputes, I am confident that my background and expertise will allow me to assist the City in maintaining fairness and efficiency in resolving disciplinary matters.

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#### **Background:**

The City of Vineland frequently faces substantial disciplinary matters concerning its employees, some of which involve complex Civil Service issues. As a result, the City requires experienced and knowledgeable professionals to ensure that these issues are handled fairly, legally, and effectively.

Based on extensive legal career as a lawyer and a judge, I bring a wealth of experience in adjudicating cases. I served as the Assignment Judge for the Superior Court of New Jersey and have a deep understanding of dispute resolution, personnel matters, and legal processes. My previous experience also includes serving as the City of Vineland's Solicitor for several years, giving me a strong understanding of the City's unique legal and administrative needs.

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#### **Proposed Services:**

I propose to serve as a hearing officer for the City of Vineland on an as-needed basis to address disciplinary matters, including those involving Civil Service rules and regulations. My services would encompass:

1. **Hearing Officer Services:** Presiding over hearings related to employee discipline, ensuring that all processes are conducted fairly and impartially.
2. **Dispute Resolution:** Assisting in the mediation and resolution of conflicts that may arise during disciplinary procedures.

3. **Legal Expertise:** Providing guidance on applicable laws, rules, and regulations, particularly in relation to Civil Service matters, ensuring that decisions are legally sound.
  4. **Litigation Support:** Offering support for any potential litigation that may arise out of disciplinary matters.
  5. **Reviewing all evidence** presented and issuing a determination and opinion in a timely and detail manner.
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**Proposed Fee Structure:**

I propose to serve as a hearing officer at an hourly rate of \$400.00, to be paid on an as-needed basis. This rate reflects my extensive experience and the specialized nature of the services provided.

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**Conclusion:**

Given my extensive background and my prior experience with the City of Vineland, I believe I am exceptionally well-qualified to assist the City in addressing its disciplinary matters. I am committed to ensuring fairness, professionalism, and legal compliance in all hearings and related proceedings.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with the City of Vineland in this capacity and provide the expertise necessary to handle its disciplinary issues effectively.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julio L. Mendez