



## Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**B. J. JONES**  
President / CEO

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
RuthAnne Visnauskas, Chair, Commissioner of NYSHCR  
Blake G. Washington, Director of BUDGET  
Marc Jonas Block  
Fay Christian  
Conway Ekpo  
Dr. Michal L. Melamed  
Howard Polivy  
Prof. Lydia W. Tang  
Melissa A. Wade

Agenda Item V. 8. June 23, 2026

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR LEGAL SERVICES

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**RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of New York, as follows:

- Section 1. that RIOC is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into contracts for legal services, upon such terms and conditions substantially similar to those outlined in the Memorandum from Lance Polivy, Vice President and General Counsel to the Board of Directors and B. J. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer, dated June 17, 2026, attached hereto;
- Section 2. that the President and Chief Executive Officer or President's designee is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such instruments as deemed necessary to effectuate the foregoing; and
- Section 3. that this resolution shall take effect immediately.



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## MEMO

**TO:** RIOC Board of Directors and B.J. Jones, President and Chief Executive Officer

**FROM:** Lance A. Polivy, Vice President and General Counsel

**DATE:** June 17, 2026

**RE:** Legal Services Panel

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### **Background:**

The laws that govern specialized legal practice areas have undergone rapid changes in recent years. As a result, there has been a dramatic growth in the need for legal representation within the following specialized practice areas: (i) labor and employment; (ii) real estate and land use; (iii) general corporate laws and corporate governance; (iv) environmental; (v) general litigation; and (vi) municipal/government entity representation ((i) through (vi) taken together, the “Legal Services”). RIOC currently has contracts due to expire with a panel of law firms that provide representation to the corporation for Legal Services on an as needed basis, as determined by RIOC. In anticipation of meeting RIOC's future needs for Legal Services by outside counsel, it is recommended that a new panel of diverse Legal Services law counsel be created. This arrangement would:

1. allow RIOC the continuity of service by an existing panel law firm, where needed;
2. foster competition among various law firms that will service RIOC in the future; and
3. ensure the availability of a diverse pool of expert law firms to timely and effectively address the various needs of RIOC.

### **Procurement Process:**

In furtherance of this recommendation, on April 3, 2026, RIOC posted a Request for Proposal for Legal Services (“RFP”) and published it in the New York State Contract Reporter. In response to the RFP, RIOC received bids from eighteen firms, with one law firm not being considered for award due to its proposal being received after the cutoff date and time set forth in the RFP.

The law firm selection was based on the best value method, combining technical evaluation and cost proposal review. An evaluation committee comprised of RIOC staff was formed and the bids were evaluated, rated and ranked based on the following selection criteria: (i) qualifications and experience of proposed counsel in each practice area; demonstrated relevant experience representing governmental entities; overall quality and clarity of the submitted proposal; and (ii) cost. A consensus was reached by the evaluation committee that a panel be recommended consisting of the top fourteen rated and ranked law firms.

The fourteen firms that were rated and ranked above a 75-point technical threshold in the RFP process, and that are being recommended to RIOC's Board of Directors for approval of the creation of a Legal Services panel are as follows (alphabetized for convenience):

1. Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC;
2. BurgherGray LLP;
3. Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP;
4. Herrick Feinstein LLP;
5. Jackson Lewis;
6. Kaplan Kirsch LLP;
7. Mintzer Mauch PLLC;
8. Nossaman LLP and Brown Hutchinson LLP;
9. Rozario Touma, P.C.;
10. Schoeman, Updike & Kaufman LLP;
11. Sive Paget & Riesel, P.C.;
12. Wasserman Grubin & Rogers, LLP;
13. Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP; and
14. Wilson Elser.

**Recommendation:**

Given the considerable and diverse experience and resources of the recommended law firms, the establishment of this Legal Services panel would provide effective legal representation for RIOC. The proposed contract term is for five (5) years, with an optional five (5) year renewal, at RIOC's sole discretion.

Based upon the above, it is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize RIOC to enter into contracts with the new Legal Services panel comprised of the above fourteen pre-qualified law firms in order to provide Legal Services to RIOC as needed.