Request for City Council Action
From the City Attorney's Office

Date: June 11, 2013
To: Minneapolis City Council
Referral to:

Subject: Waiver of Conflict of Interest for Gray Plant Mooty Law Firm

Recommendation: That the City Council consent to and waive any conflict of interests between the City of Minneapolis and the Gray Plant Mooty law firm regarding their work on the 201 Lowry Avenue N.E. redevelopment contract for First & First LLC and their work on the environmental aspects of the Downtown East proposal for Ryan Companies.

Previous Directives:

Prepared by: Peter W. Ginder Phone: (612) 673-2478

Approved by: Susan L. Segal
City Attorney

Presenter in Committee: Susan L. Segal, City Attorney

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

___ No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).
___ Action requires an appropriation increase to the _____ Capital Budget or _____ Operating Budget.
___ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.
___ Action requires use of contingency or reserves.
___ Business Plan: _____ Action is within the plan. _____ Action requires a change to plan.
___ Other financial impact (Explain):
___Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Community Impact
Neighborhood Notification
City Goal(s):
Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Code
Other

Background/Supporting Information

The Gray Plant Mooty law firm ("Gray Plant"), pursuant to a legal services contract, currently represents the City as bond counsel on Common Bond Fund financing matters. Gray Plant also is on the City's approved Legal Services Panel and has provided representation for the City in other areas including pension matters and benefits matters. Gray Plant Mooty was recently asked to represent a developer, First & First LLC, in a land sale contract regarding 201 Lowry Avenue N.E.

In addition, Gray Plant has also recently been retained to represent Ryan Companies US, Inc. in connection with Ryan's recent Downtown East proposal, specifically in regard to the environmental assessment process. While these representations are distinct from types of matters Gray Plant has worked on for the City, the City Attorney's Office (CAO) determined that it would be appropriate to bring a waiver request to the Council. The CAO recommends granting a conflict of interest waiver to Gray Plant in connection with these two matters.