

From: Layla Law-Gisiko <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 10:40 AM
To: esd.sm.ESD <ESD@esd.ny.gov>
Cc: Vikki Barbero (CB5) <[REDACTED]>; Aaron Ford <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Comments & Questions ESD Board Meeting - 10/20/2022

Dear Chair Law, Director Knight and ESD directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and questions in writing ahead of 10/22/2022 ESD Directors Meeting

1- ESD is proposing to amend a contract for legal services with the law offices of Donald J. Tobias.

The agenda materials state that The Law Offices of Donald J. Tobias (“Donald J. Tobias”), has assisted ESD in a wide-range of litigation and workout related matters for many years.

Can you please clarify for the public which litigation the Law Offices of Donald Tobias have represented ESD.

Also, the ESD agenda material states: "the current spike in need for such services [litigation and workout related matters] created by the economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic”.

Can you briefly explain what kind of impact Covid 19 has had on litigation involving ESD. It would be most helpful if you could give examples of such litigations you have experienced or you anticipate.

2- SUBJECT: New York City (New York County) – Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project1

Authorization to Amend the Contract with Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner for Legal Services and Authorization to Take Related Actions

The original contract with Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner was entered into in **cost-sharing agreement with a private developer** involved in the Pennsylvania Station Area Civic and Land Use Improvement Project.

Does this amended contract aim to continue the cost-sharing agreement?

3- Timeliness of Agenda Posting

We note for the record that the agenda for the meeting was posted on October 19, 2022, at 9am.

The deadline to submit comments on the agenda is October 19, 2022 at 12pm, **giving the public three hours to review the 302-pages agenda.**

We respectfully ask that you post the agenda materials in a way that gives the public more ample time for review of such materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Best regards,

Layla Law-Gisiko
Chair Land Use, Housing & Zoning Committee
Manhattan Community Board Five