

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTE: The Borough will consider proposals only from firms or organizations that have demonstrated the capability and willingness to provide high quality services in the manner described in this Request for Qualifications and in any subsequent Request for Proposals.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR THE PROVISION OF
SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES on
OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA)**

ISSUE DATE: December 22, 2020

**DUE DATE: January 5, 2021
12:00 P.M..**

**Issued by: Borough of Fanwood
County of Union
State of New Jersey**

GLOSSARY

The following definitions shall apply to and are used in this Request for Qualifications:

“Borough” - refers to the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey.

"Qualification Statement" - refers to the complete responses to this RFQ submitted by the Respondents.

"Qualified Respondent" - refers to those Respondents who (in the sole judgment of the Borough) have satisfied the qualification criteria set forth in this RFQ.

"RFQ" - refers to this Request for Qualifications, including any amendments thereof or supplements thereto.

"Respondent" or "Respondents" - refers to the interested firm(s) that submit a Qualification Statement.

SECTION 1

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Borough of Fanwood is requesting proposals for Special Counsel Services to advise the Borough Clerk's office on matters relative to the Open Public Records Act. (OPRA)

The Borough of Fanwood is requesting services on an "as needed basis", to be assigned and required to provide representation in such matters as the Borough may require, including all aspects of litigation, negotiations, research and transactional work.

Counsel may be called upon to attend meetings.

Counsel may also be called upon to provide other types of legal services of a specialized nature.

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Introduction and Purpose.

The Borough is soliciting Qualification Statements from interested companies and/or persons (“firm”) for the provision of **Special Counsel Services on Open Public Records Act**, as more particularly described herein. Through a Request for Qualification process described herein, firms interested in assisting the Borough with the provision of such services must prepare and submit a Qualification Statement in accordance with the procedure and schedule in this RFQ. The Borough will review Qualification Statements only from those firms that submit a Qualification Statement which includes all the information required to be included as described herein (in the sole judgment of the Borough). The Borough intends to qualify firm(s) that (a) possesses the professional, financial and administrative capabilities to provide the proposed services, and (b) offers the financial terms and conditions that are determined by the Borough to provide the greatest financial benefit to the taxpayers of Borough.

1.2. Procurement Process and Schedule.

The selection of Qualified Respondents is subject to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.* In addition, the Borough has structured a procurement process that seeks to obtain the desired results described above, while establishing a competitive process to assure that each firm is provided an equal opportunity to submit a Qualification Statement in response to the RFQ. Qualification Statements will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section 2 of this RFQ, which will be applied in the same manner to each Qualification Statement received.

Qualification Statements will be reviewed and evaluated by the Borough and its legal and financial advisors (collectively, the "Review Team"). The Qualification Statements will be reviewed to determine if the Respondent has met the minimum professional, administrative and financial areas described in this RFQ. Based upon the totality of the information contained in the Qualification Statement, including information about the reputation and experience of each Respondent, the Borough will (in its sole judgment) determine which Respondents are qualified (from professional, administrative and financial standpoints) Each Respondent that meets the requirements of the RFQ (in the sole judgment of the Borough) will be designated as a Qualified Respondent and will be given the opportunity to submit a detailed proposal in response to RFP's issued by the Borough.

The RFQ process commences with the issuance of this RFQ. The steps involved in the process and the anticipated completion dates are set forth in Table 1, Procurement Schedule. The Borough reserves the right to, among other things, amend, modify or alter the Procurement Schedule upon notice to all potential Respondents.

All communications concerning this RFQ or the RFQ process shall be directed to the Borough's Designated Contact Person, in writing at the address set forth below.

Designated Contact Person:

Patricia Hoynes
Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
908-322-8236, Ext. 121

Qualification Statements must be submitted to, and be received by, the Borough, via mail, overnight courier, or hand delivery, by 12:00 p.m. Prevailing Time on January 5, 2021. Qualification Statements will not be accepted by facsimile transmission or e-mail.

Subsequent to issuance of this RFQ, the Borough (through the issuance of addenda to all firms that have received a copy of the RFQ) may modify, supplement or amend the provisions of this RFQ in order to respond to inquiries received from prospective Respondents or as otherwise deemed necessary or appropriate by (and in the sole judgment of) the Borough.

TABLE 1

ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

	ACTIVITY	DATE
1.	Issuance of Request for Qualifications	December 22, 2020
2.	Receipt of Qualification Statements	January 5, 2021 12:00 p.m.
3.	Review by Review Team with Recommendations as to Designation of Qualified Respondents	January 6, 2021 (Tentative)
6.	Selection of Contractor	January 19, 2021 (Tentative)

Section 1.3. Conditions Applicable to RFQ.

Upon submission of a Qualification Statement in response to this RFQ, the Respondent acknowledges and consents to the following conditions relative to the submission and review and consideration of its Qualification Statement:

- This document is an RFQ and does not constitute an RFP.
- This RFQ does not commit the Borough to issue an RFP.
- All costs incurred by the Respondent in connection with responding to this RFQ shall be borne solely by the Respondent.
- The Borough reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to reject for any reason any and all responses and components thereof and to eliminate any and all Respondents responding to this RFQ from further consideration for this procurement.
- The Borough reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to reject any Respondent that submits incomplete responses to this RFQ, or a Qualification Statement that is not responsive to the requirements of this RFQ.
- The Borough reserves the right (in its sole judgment) to determine those Respondents that are qualified to submit Proposals in response to an RFP.
- The Borough reserves the right, without prior notice, to supplement, amend, or otherwise modify this RFQ, or otherwise request additional information.

- All Qualification Statements shall become the property of the Borough and will not be returned.
- All Qualification Statements will be made available to the public at the appropriate time, as determined by the Borough (in the exercise of its sole discretion) in accordance with law.
- The Borough may request Respondents to send representatives to the Borough for interviews.
- Any and all Qualification Statements not received by the Borough by 12:00 p.m. Prevailing Time on **January 5, 2021** will be rejected.
- Neither the Borough, nor their respective staffs, consultants or advisors (including but not limited to the Review Team) shall be liable for any claims or damages resulting from the solicitation or preparation of the Qualification Statement, nor will there be any reimbursement to Respondents for the cost of preparing and submitting a Qualification Statement or for participating in this procurement process.

Section 1.4. Rights of Borough

The Borough reserves, holds and may exercise, at its sole discretion, the following rights and options with regard to this RFQ and the procurement process in accordance with the provisions of applicable law:

- To determine that any Qualification Statement received complies or fails to comply with the terms of this RFQ.
- To supplement, amend or otherwise modify the RFQ through issuance of addenda to all prospective Respondents who have received a copy of this RFQ.
- To waive any technical non-conformance with the terms of this RFQ.
- To change or alter the schedule for any events called for in this RFQ upon the issuance of notice to all prospective Respondents who have received a copy of this RFQ.
- To conduct investigations of any or all of the Respondents, as the Borough deems necessary or convenient, to clarify the information provided as part of the Qualification Statement and to request additional information to support the information included in any Qualification Statement.
- To suspend or terminate the procurement process described in this RFQ at any time (in its sole discretion.) If terminated, the Borough may determine to commence a

new procurement process or exercise any other rights provided under applicable law without any obligation to the Respondents.

The Borough shall be under no obligation to complete all or any portion of the procurement process described in this RFQ.

1.5 Addenda or Amendments to RFQ.

During the period provided for the preparation of proposals, the Borough may issue addenda, amendments or answers to written inquiries. Those addenda will be noticed by the Borough and will constitute a part of the RFQ. All responses to the RFQ shall be prepared with full consideration of the addenda issued prior to the proposal submission date.

1.6 Cost of Proposal Preparation.

Each proposal and all information required to be submitted pursuant to the RFQ shall be prepared at the sole cost and expense of the respondent. There shall be no claims whatsoever against the Borough, its staff or consultants for reimbursement for the payment of costs or expenses incurred in the preparation of the Qualification Statement or other information required by the RFQ.

1.7 Proposal Format.

Responses should cover all information requested in the Questions to be answered in this RFQ.

Responses which in the judgment of the Borough fail to meet the requirements of the RFQ or which are in any way conditional, incomplete, obscure, contain additions or deletions from requested information, or contain errors may be rejected.

SECTION 3

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Section 3.1 General Requirements.

The Qualification Statement submitted by the Respondent must meet or exceed the professional, administrative and financial qualifications set forth in this Section 3 and shall incorporate the information requested below.

In addition to the information required as described below, a Respondent may submit supplemental information that it feels may be useful in evaluating its Qualification Statement. Respondents are encouraged to be clear, factual, and concise in their presentation of information.

Section 3.2 Administrative Information Requirements.

The Respondent shall, as part of its Qualification Statement, provide the following information:

1. An executive summary (not to exceed two (2) pages) of the information contained in all the other parts of the Qualification Statement.
2. An executed Letter of Qualification (See Appendix A to this RFQ).
3. Name, address and telephone number of the firm or firms submitting the Qualification Statement pursuant to this RFQ, and the name of the key contact person.
4. A description of the business organization (i.e., person, corporation, partnership, joint venture, etc.) of each firm, its ownership and its organizational structure.
 - (a) Provide the names and addresses of all Principals of the firm or firms submitting the Qualification Statement. For purposes of this RFQ, "Principals" means persons possessing a 10% ownership interest in the Respondent. If the Respondent is a corporation, limited liability corporation and limited liability partnership, "Principals" shall include each investor who would have any amount of operational control over the Respondent and every stockholder having an ownership interest of 10% or more in the firm.
 - (b) If a firm is a partially owned or a fully-owned subsidiary of another firm, identify the parent company and describe the nature and extent of the parents' approval rights over the activities of the firm submitting a Qualification Statement. Describe the approval process.

- (c) If the Respondent is a partnership or a joint venture or similar organization, provide comparable information as required in (b) above for each member of the partnership, joint venture or similar organization.
 - (d) A statement that the Respondent has complied with all applicable affirmative action (or similar) requirements with respect to its business activities, together with evidence of such compliance
5. An executed Letter of Intent (See Appendix B).
 6. A current Rate sheet/Fee schedule
 7. The number of years your organization has been in business under the present name.
 8. The number of years the business organization has been under the current management.
 9. A statement that the Respondent is in compliance with all applicable affirmative action (or similar) requirements with respect to its business activities, together with evidence of such compliance.
 10. Any judgments, claims or suits pending or outstanding against company. If yes, please explain.
 11. Whether the business organization is now or has been involved in any bankruptcy or re-organization proceedings in the last ten (10) years. If yes, please explain.
 12. Confirm appropriate federal and state.
 13. Provide Tax ID

Section 3.3 Professional Information Requirements.

a. Respondent shall submit a description of its overall experience in providing the type of services sought in the RFQ. At a minimum, the following information on past experience should be included as appropriate to the RFQ:

1. Description and scope of work by Respondent
2. Name, address and contact information of references
3. Fees
4. Explanation of perceived relevance of the experience to the RFQ

- b. Describe the services that Respondent would perform directly.
- c. Describe those portions of the Respondent's services, if any, that are sub-contracted out. Identify all subcontractors the Respondent anticipates using in connection with this project.
- d. Brief description of Respondent's projects during the last three (3) years related to the services requested.
- e. Resumes of key employees who would be involved in performing the services.
- f. A narrative statement of the Respondent's understanding of the Borough's needs and goals.
- g. Commitment to quality management.
- h. Organizational chart.
- i. List all immediate relatives of Principal(s) of Respondent who are Borough employees or elected officials of the Borough. For purposes of the above, "immediate relative" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, child, stepchild, direct-line aunt or uncle, grandparent, grandchild, and in-laws by reason of relation.

SECTION 4

INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

4.1 Submission of Qualification Statements.

Respondents must submit an original and three (3) copies of their Qualification Statement to the Designated Contact Person:

Patricia Hoynes
Purchasing Agent
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
908-322-8236, Ext. 121

Qualification Statements must be received by the Borough no later than 12:00 p.m. (prevailing time) on **January 5, 2021**, and must be mailed or hand-delivered. Qualification Statements forwarded by facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted.

To be responsive, Qualification Statements must provide all requested information, and must be in strict conformance with the instructions set forth herein. Qualification Statements and all related information must be bound, and signed and acknowledged by the Respondent.

SECTION 5

EVALUATION

The Borough's objective in soliciting Qualification Statements is to enable it to select a firm or organization that will provide high quality and cost-effective services to the citizens of Borough. The Borough will consider Qualification Statements only from firms that, in the Borough's judgment, have demonstrated the capability and willingness to provide high quality services to the citizens of the Borough in the manner described in this RFQ.

**APPENDIX A
LETTER OF QUALIFICATION**

(Note: To be typed on Respondent's Letterhead. No modifications may be made to this letter)

[insert date]

**Patricia Hoynes
Purchasing Agent
Borough of Fanwood
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023**

Dear Ms. Hoynes:

The undersigned have reviewed our Qualification Statement submitted in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued by the Borough ("Borough"), **December 22, 2020**, in connection with **Special Counsel Services related to Open Public Records Act**.

We affirm that the contents of Qualification Statement (which Qualification Statement is incorporated herein by reference) are accurate, factual and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief and that the Qualification Statement is submitted in good faith upon express understanding that any false statement may result in the disqualification of (Name of Respondent).

(Respondent shall sign and complete the spaces provided below. If a joint venture, appropriate officers of each company shall sign.)

(Signature of Chief
Executive Officer)

(Signature of Chief
Financial Officer)

(Typed Name and Title)

(Typed name and Title)

(Type Name of Firm)*

(Type Name of Firm)*

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

* If a joint venture, partnership or other formal organization is submitting a Qualification Statement, each participant shall execute this Letter of Qualification.

APPENDIX B

LETTER OF INTENT

(Note: To be typed on Respondent's Letterhead. No modifications may be made to this letter)

[insert date]

**Patricia Hoynes
Purchasing Agent
75 North Martine Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023**

Dear Ms. Hoynes:

The undersigned, as Respondent, has (have) submitted the attached Qualification Statement in response to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), issued by the Borough of Fanwood ("Borough"), dated **December 22, 2020**, in **connection with Special Counsel Services related to Open Public Records Act.**

(Name of Respondent) HEREBY STATES:

1. The Qualification Statement contains accurate, factual and complete information.
2. (Name of Respondent) is interested in being invited to respond to the Borough's Request for Proposal (RFP). It is the intent of (Name of Respondent), if selected, to complete and submit a proposal for the provision of [insert services].
3. (Name of Respondent) agrees to participate in good faith in the procurement process as described in the RFQ and to adhere to the Borough's procurement schedule.
4. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges that all costs incurred by it (them) in connection with the preparation and submission of the Qualification Statement and any proposal prepared and submitted in response to the RFP, or any negotiation which results therefrom shall be borne exclusively by the Respondent.
5. (Name of Respondent) hereby declares that the only persons participating in this Qualification Statement as Principals are named herein and that no person other than those herein mentioned has any participation in this Qualification Statement or in any contract to be entered into with respect thereto. Additional persons may subsequently be included as participating Principals, but only if acceptable to the Borough. (Name of Respondent) declares that this Qualification Statement is made without connection with any other person, firm or parties who has submitted a Qualification Statement, except as expressly set forth below and that it has been prepared and has been submitted in good faith and without collusion or fraud.

6. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges and agrees that the Borough may modify, amend, suspend and/or terminate the procurement process (in its sole judgment). In any case, the Borough shall have any liability to the Respondent for any costs incurred by the Respondent with respect to the procurement activities described in this RFQ.

7. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges that any contract executed with respect to the provision of [insert services] must comply with all applicable affirmative action and similar laws. Respondent hereby agrees to take such actions as are required in order to comply with such applicable laws.

8. (Name of Respondent) acknowledges and agrees that it will be obligated to satisfy the requirements set forth in the RFQ at the time of submission of Proposals. The Respondent hereby states that (as of the date hereof) it has a reasonable expectation that it will be able to satisfy such criteria and requirements as of the date of Proposal submittal.

(Respondent shall sign and complete the space provided below. If a joint venture, appropriate officers of each company shall sign.)

(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

_____ (Typed Name and Title)

_____ (Type Name of Firm)*

Dated: _____

* If a joint venture, partnership or other formal organization is submitting a Qualification Statement, each participant shall execute this Letter of Intent.