

Minutes
Policy Legislative/Administration Committee
September 14, 2006

Mrs. Gladys Mack called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Present were:

Committee Members

Mrs. Gladys Mack, Chair
Mrs. Catherine Hudgins, Vice Chair
Mr. Charles Deegan
Mr. Dana Kauffman

Mrs. Mack recommended to move the action items forward to the Board, even though there was no quorum. All members agreed.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the April 6, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

Action Items

A. Request to Initiate and Award Contract for Psychological Testing Services for Transit Police Officer Applicants

Ms. Brender L. Gregory, Assistant General Manager for Workforce Development and Administration, pointed out a correction to Page 5 of the Board's original package (last sentence) - All applicants falling within or below the marginal range will not be deemed "NOT ACCEPTABLE." The sentence should read ... "will be deemed..." instead of "will not". Mr. Kauffman recommended this change to the Board for its approval. The members present agreed to recommend to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Hudgins asked that specific budget information be included with the document, including from which budget funding is located and if the expenditure is in the approved budget.

Mr. Tangherlini stated that this expenditure is within the overall budget amount.

The recommendation was approved as presented.

B. Request to Initiate and Award Contract for Background Investigative Services

Ms. Gregory shared a summary of background investigative services at WMATA, including that she had determined several flaws in the current system, particularly with regards to checks conducted on safety-sensitive positions. Hence, she had secured the services of a security consulting firm to conduct a top to bottom assessment of the current background procedures and made recommendations for improvements in the form a new scope of work for a new background investigations contract, since the present contract is scheduled to expire in December of this year. In the new contract, the scope of work will require that the company provide a proven history of background investigation completions within 36 to 48 hours, an even more comprehensive review of criminal history and that they should be able to provide received information electronically through our PeopleSoft applicant tracking system.

A discussion ensued concerning the number of different class codes - WMATA currently has 2,986 class codes, which represents 6,059 safety-sensitive positions of the 10,412 individuals who make up WMATA's workforce. The discussion continued with questions concerning how the Council of Governments (COG) or National Association of Academies handle their background checks, the current cost of background checks and the length of time it takes to hire a candidate, and the exact function of the consultant.

Mr. Tangherlini stated that we will make sure that the consultant will look at our existing scope, as well as services being offered to COG or National Association of County Officials or other organizations, to help us devise a new scope of services.

Mrs. Mack stated that the action be to initiate only, and to return to the committee prior to award.

Subsequent Policy Legislative/Administration Committee Agenda

Mrs. Mack noted that the Governance Initiative Action Report is to be presented before the committee on October 5, 2006, and that the next regularly scheduled meeting following October is December 14, 2006.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.