Resolution 2026-R-247

A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with The Jones Group, LLC for Government Affairs and Strategic Communication Services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor James D. Stewart, Jr., or his designee, is authorized to execute an agreement with The Jones Group, LLC (in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A) for government affairs and strategic communication services in an amount not to exceed Six Thousand Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars ($6,500.00) per month, for a total amount not to exceed Seventy-Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($78,000.00), plus pre-approved reimbursable expenses, and to execute any documents necessary to effectuate such agreement.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: This 4th day of November, 2026.

David Spivey, City Council President

APPROVED:

James D. Stewart, Jr., Mayor

ATTESTED:

Leigh Allison, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Leigh Allison, the City Clerk of the City of Irondale, Alabama, hereby certify the above to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Irondale at its regular meeting held on November 4, 2026, as the same appears in the minutes of record of said meeting.

Leigh Allison, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This Agreement is entered into by and between **City of Irondale, Alabama** ("Client") and **The Jones Group, LLC** ("Company"), as of the date of the last party to execute this Agreement ("Effective Date").

In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, and other good and sufficient consideration, the Parties agree to the following:

1. **SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED:** Under this Agreement, The Jones Group, LLC agrees to provide the Client with governmental affairs services as well as and strategic communication related thereto.

2. **AGREEMENT LIMITATION**: The Jones Group, LLC agrees to devote such time and talent as lawful and necessary to make its best faith effort to accomplish the objectives of the Client. It is mutually agreed and understood that The Jones Group, LLC cannot and does not guarantee or warrant the results of its effort.

3. **LEGAL SERVICES**: It is further understood that The Jones Group, LLC is not a law firm and does not propose to provide legal services or legal advice under this Agreement.

4. **TERM OF AGREEMENT**: This Agreement shall be effective for one year from the Effective Date.

5. **PAYMENT**: The monthly payment for the services to be rendered by Company to Client under this Agreement shall be $6,500.00 per month ("Fee"). The first installment shall be due and payable within 30 days of the signing of this agreement. The Jones Group, LLC may seek reimbursement for certain expenses associated with the Agreement including, but not limited to, travel, lodging and meals, provided that reimbursement for such expenses has been pre-approved by the Mayor of the City, or his designee, in writing or via electronic communication.

Any payments due hereunder shall be mailed to The Jones Group, LLC at the following address:

The Jones Group, LLC
P.O. Box 5278
Montgomery, AL 36103

6. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**: All parties agree that in performance of the services outlined herein, The Jones Group, LLC is acting as an independent contractor and not as an employee or agent of the Client while performing its services. The Jones Group, LLC shall, at all times, comply with both the letter and spirit of all applicable state laws and regulations.

7. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**: The Jones Group, LLC has reviewed its client list and has concluded that there are no actual or potential conflicts of interests with current clients and the City of Irondale. The Jones Group, LLC is sensitive to issues posing a real or perceived conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest arises during the term of this Agreement, The Jones Group, LLC will promptly advise the Client and recommend an appropriate course of action.

8. **CONFIDENTIALITY**: Neither The Jones Group, LLC nor the Client, without the written consent of the other, shall disclose to any person confidential, proprietary, or any other information concerning The Jones Group, LLC or the Client's business, financial, or other affairs, subject to the Client's statutory obligations regarding public records.

9. **MODIFICATION**: No modification, amendment, or waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be effective unless made in writing, specifically referring to this Agreement and signed by each of the Parties herein.

10. **NON-ASSIGNMENT**: Neither this Agreement nor any rights or obligations hereunder may be assigned or transferred by either party, without the prior written consent of the other party.

11. **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAWS**: The Jones Group, LLC shall comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations, including, without limitation, any state laws or regulations governing the registration or conduct of lobbyists. The Client will execute any such documentation required by law or will authorize The Jones Group, LLC to execute such documentation on their behalf.

12. **TERMINATION**: Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for no cause provided that at least thirty (30) days written notice is provided to the other party. If the Agreement is terminated by the Client for no cause, the Client shall remit payment to The Jones Group, LLC for all services rendered up to the termination date and no further fees or compensation shall be due thereafter. If the Agreement is terminated by The Jones Group, LLC for no cause, The Jones Group, LLC shall provide services to The Client up to the termination date and no further services shall be due thereafter.

Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for cause in the event of a material breach of terms herein, provided that the non-breaching party must provide the breaching party with written notice of the material breach and a thirty (30) day cure period. If the breach is not cured by the end of the thirty (30) day period, then any previously delivered termination notice becomes effective without further notice. For purposes of this Agreement, "material breach" shall mean a failure by a party to this Agreement to perform any of its obligations herein, the effect of which would substantially impair the value of this Agreement to the other party.

13. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This Agreement constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement of the parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements, arrangements and understanding relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

14. **GOVERNING LAW**: The laws of the State of Alabama shall govern the terms and conditions of this Agreement. It is agreed by and between the parties that in the event legal action is brought by either party against the other, or any matter arising out of this Agreement, such action shall be commenced in a State Court of competent jurisdiction in Jefferson County, Alabama, Birmingham Division.

15. NOTICE: Any notice or communication in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and either delivered personally, sent by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, delivered by a recognized overnight courier service, or transmitted via facsimile or other electronic transmission, addressed as follows:

Client: City of Irondale, Alabama
Email: jstewart@cityofirondaleal.gov
Phone: 205-956-9200
Attention: Mayor James D. Stewart, Jr.

The Jones Group: _____
_____
_____
_____

or to such other address as may be furnished in writing by either party in the preceding manner. Notice shall be deemed to have been properly given for all purposes: (i) if sent by a nationally recognized overnight carrier for next business day deliver, on the first business day following deposit of such notice with such carrier, (ii) if personally delivered, on the actual date of deliver, (iii) if sent by certified U.S. Mail, return receipt requested postage prepaid, on the third business day following the date of mailing, or (iv) if sent by facsimile or email of a PDF document (with confirmation of transmission), then on the actual date of delivery if sent prior to 5 p.m. Central Time, and on the next business day if sent after such time.

16. IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE: By signing this Agreement, Company affirms, for the duration of the Agreement, that it will not violate federal immigration law or knowingly employ, hire for employment, or continue to employ, an unauthorized alien within the State of Alabama. Furthermore, a contracting party found to be in violation of this provision shall be deemed to be in breach of the Agreement and shall be responsible for all resulting damages.

This constitutes the entire Agreement between all parties, and all parties acknowledge there are no other agreements between the parties in existence, either express or implied.

COMPANY:

THE JONES GROUP, LLC

BY: Gregory Jones

PRINTED NAME: Gregory Jones

ITS: President / CEO

DATE: 11.17.26

CLIENT:

THE CITY OF IRONDALE, ALABAMA

BY: James D. Stewart Jr.

PRINTED NAME: James D. Stewart, Jr.

ITS: Mayor

DATE: 11/4/2026

Bill Monitoring & Policy Analysis

- Monitor relevant state legislation aligned to client priorities
- Track bill movement, amendments, and committee activity
- Provide timely alerts and concise summaries of key developments
- Assess potential impact and identify risks and opportunities
- Deliver regular legislative reports with clear implications and recommended actions

Legislative Support

- Develop and execute legislative engagement strategy
- Facilitate introductions and meetings with policymakers and staff
- Prepare briefing materials, talking points, and policy positioning
- Support testimony preparation, hearings, and legislative meetings
- Provide real-time insight during legislative session and key decision points

Strategic Consulting

- Align policy priorities with broader organizational strategy
- Advise on positioning, messaging, and long-term policy roadmap
- Identify opportunities to leverage policy for organizational growth and impact
- Support internal planning to ensure readiness for funding, partnerships, or implementation
- Provide executive-level advisory support and decision guidance

Stakeholder Outreach & Community Engagement

- Identify and prioritize key stakeholders (government, business, community, nonprofit)
- Develop and execute stakeholder engagement strategy
- Build and manage strategic partnerships and coalitions
- Coordinate community engagement efforts to support policy and funding objectives
- Facilitate meetings, roundtables, and events to strengthen alignment and visibility