



City of Taunton

LAW DEPARTMENT

15 Summer Street

Taunton, Massachusetts 02780

Phone (508) 821-1036 Facsimile (508) 821-1397



Shaunna O'Connell
MAYOR

Matthew J. Costa, Esq.
CITY SOLICITOR

Peter F. Winters, Esq.
FIRST ASST. CITY SOLICITOR

Thomas P. Gay, Jr., Esq.
SECOND ASST. CITY SOLICITOR

David T. Gay, Esq.
SP. ASST. CITY SOLICITOR

February 10, 2022

Council President Phillip Duarte
Members of the Municipal Council
City of Taunton
City Hall
15 Summer Street
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780

Re: Aries Taunton, LLC

Dear Council President Duarte and Members of the Municipal Council:

We are writing to provide you with an update on this matter. Attached please find copies of the previously approved Host Community Benefits and Pilot Agreement and Option Agreement with Aries Taunton, LLC.

These are the same documents that were previously approved by the Municipal Council on December 29, 2020 (Option Agreement) and February 9, 2021 (Host Community Benefits and Pilot Agreement). They were subsequently signed.

Therefore, the Inspector General's office requested that we consider issuing a request for proposals on sludge disposal. As you may recall, we initially took the position that the City had in fact already complied with procurement requirements via an earlier Request for Information and Qualification (RFIQ) in conjunction with the Special Act which provides for procurement of services relative to wastewater residuals associated with the treatment plant. However, after further review we agreed to request proposals as suggested by the Inspector General's office. The only proposal received was Aries Taunton, LLC and it was the same proposal as previously

Page 2
Council President Phillip Duarte
Members of the Municipal Council
Re: Aries Taunton, LLC

February 10, 2022

submitted with the same material terms for a Host Community Benefits and Pilot Agreement, and a separate Option Agreement.

The Inspector General's office has recently reviewed the steps we have taken with the Request for Proposals and the response submitted by Aries Taunton, LLC, and did not find any deficiencies with the same. Because the RFP and response have not resulted in any necessary changes to the existing Agreements, no new vote is needed to alter the previously approved documents. Therefore, our understanding is that Aries Taunton, LLC will proceed under the existing signed Agreements as it proceeds with the state licensing/permitting process.

The next step in this process will be for Aries Taunton, LLC to proceed with its applications for the necessary state permits and licenses as may be necessary to operate the proposed facility.

If Aries Taunton, LLC obtains its required licenses and permits then a Lease Agreement will be presented to the Municipal Council for approval in accordance with the terms of the Option Agreement.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Matthew J. Costa, City Solicitor



David T. Gay, Special Assistant City Solicitor

DTG:tmg