

**VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS
ORDINANCE 2023-131**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN MORRILL AND FIEDLER, LLC AND THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS AT AN
ANNUAL COST OF \$66,000 FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025**

WHEREAS, the Village of Vernon Hills, County of Lake, State of Illinois (*"the Village"*) is a duly organized and existing municipality and unit of local government created under the provisions of the laws of the State of Illinois, and is operating under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Village's current two (2) year agreement with Morrill & Fiedler expired at the end of December 2023. Morrill has provided assistance in Springfield working with legislators and monitoring proposed legislative actions on the Village's behalf since 2009.

WHEREAS, Morrill has provided an updated two (2) year agreement with a proposed annual fee of \$66,000 and will hold this rate over both years of the contract.

WHEREAS, the Village has worked with Morrill & Associates for 15 years. The firm has served the Village well.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT: The Village Manager is authorized to execute an extension of the December 8, 2009 Professional Services Agreement under which Morrill and Fiedler, LLC provides the Village of Vernon Hills with Illinois government relations services during the calendar years of 2024 and 2025, subject to Village attorney's approval.

SECTION 2: AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE OF PAYMENT: The Finance Director is authorized to make payments to Morrill and Associates P.C. in the amount of \$5,500 per month for a total annual cost of \$66,000 to begin on January 1, 2024 and end on December 31, 2025.

SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from its passage and approval.

SECTION 4: ORDINANCE NUMBER: This Ordinance shall be known as Ordinance Number 2023-131

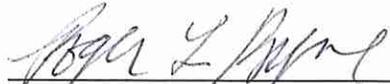
Dated this 12th day of December 2023.

Adopted by roll call votes as follows:

AYES: 7 – Marquardt, Oppenheim, Takaoka, Forster, Schenk, Koch, Byrne

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 0 - None



Roger L. Byrne, Village President

PASSED: 12/12/2023
APPROVED: 12/12/2023
ATTEST: 12/12/2023



Kevin Timony, Village Clerk



ATTACHMENT A
EXTENSION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT



November 17, 2023

Via Email

Kevin Timony
Village Manager
Village of Vernon Hills
290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Re: Extension of Professional Services Agreement between Morrill & Fiedler, LLC and the Village of Vernon Hills for Government Relations Representation During Calendar Years 2024 and 2025

Dear Kevin:

This letter agreement extends the existing professional services agreement dated December 8, 2009, for the tenth consecutive time. This extension incorporates herein the terms of the December 8, 2009, agreement under which Morrill & Fiedler, LLC ("M&F") – previously Morrill and Associates, P.C. ("M&A") – will provide the Village of Vernon Hills ("VHILLS") with Illinois government relations services during calendar years 2024 and 2025.

By execution of this letter, the parties agree to extend the original contract between them, dated December 8, 2009, for an additional 24-month period – with this extension running from January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2025. The monthly rate shall modestly increase from \$5,000 per month to \$5,500 per month (for a total of \$66,000 annually); however, if events warrant an increased role for M&F during the term this agreement, the parties shall discuss a possible increase in the fee, which may only occur via a subsequent writing executed by both parties.

It is understood that the services provided by M&F to VHILLS are non-legal government relations services; legal services may be separately rendered by Steve Morrill through Barnes & Thornburg, LLP ("B&T"), a law firm of more than 800 attorneys with which Morrill is associated as "Of Counsel," should VHILLS desire to separately engage Morrill and B&T for such purpose. M&F is not structured as a law firm and does not practice law. It is understood that M&F and B&T are separate and distinct entities, with neither being liable for the acts or omissions of the other; it is also understood that M&F's engagement by VHILLS cannot be asserted as a basis to disqualify B&T from its current or future representation of any client in any matters in which B&T's clients may be adverse to VHILLS, or vice versa.

During the 2024 and 2025 regular and veto legislative sessions, and during any special session that may occur, M&F will continue to provide guidance to VHILLS regarding the types of substantive legislative, executive, and administrative issues of concern to VHILLS that would be subject to ongoing lobbying services, including:

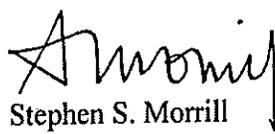
One N. Wacker Dr, Suite 4400 · Chicago, IL 60606 · 312. 843-6860 ph · 312. 873-4173 fax
433 W. Edwards St. · Springfield, IL 62704 · 217. 789-5411 ph · 217. 789-5413 fax
www.smorrill.com

- Continued discussions with IDOT and VHILLS' state legislators to help secure the release of funding for their respective member-initiative capital projects impacting the Village, along with efforts to obtain new member initiatives, and release of funding for improvements along Route 45 pursuant to IDOT's multi-year highway improvement program.
- Monitoring the administrative implementation of recreational (or "adult use") cannabis in Illinois, and any subsequent legislative changes to the program made by the Illinois General Assembly.
- Monitoring legislation pertaining to state tax policy and tax distribution to local governments.
- Monitoring legislation regulating the use or prohibition of plastic bags by Illinois retailers.
- Monitoring legislation impacting local economic development tools (*e.g.*, TIF district reform proposals, Enterprise Zones, DCEO program funding).
- Monitoring legislation impacting municipal finances and workplace policies (*e.g.*, municipal, police, and fire pension liabilities; fair work week and paid leave policies).
- Monitoring legislation impacting criminal justice and policing reforms.
- Monitoring legislation pertaining to the regulation of small cell service and the potential impacts on Village right-of-way.

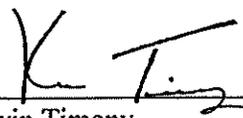
In addition to the scope and services outlined in previous engagement agreements, M&F will continue its efforts in building strong relationships between VHILLS and the Illinois General Assembly, Governor J.B. Pritzker and his senior administration personnel, state agency directors, and senior personnel within the agencies – including but not limited to the Office of the Governor, Illinois Department of Transportation, and Illinois Department of Revenue.

The engagement agreement dated December 8, 2009, and subsequent extension letters are available to VHILLS upon request. Please indicate your acceptance of and agreement to the terms of this letter agreement by signing below and returning one original copy, fully executed.

Very truly yours,


 Stephen S. Morrill
 MORRILL & FIEDLER, LLC

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:


 Kevin Timony
 VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS

VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-131

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORRILL AND FIEDLER, LLC AND THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS AT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$66,000 FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025

Published in pamphlet form by the Authority of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Vernon Hills, Lake County, Illinois, this 12th day of December, 2023

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

I, KEVIN TIMONY, BEING FIRST DULY APPOINTED, DEPOSES AND SAYS ON OATH THAT AS VILLAGE CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, HE DID CAUSE THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATE FOR ORDINANCE NO. 2023-131 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MORRILL AND FIEDLER, LLC AND THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS AT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$66,000 FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025 TO BE POSTED IN THE VILLAGE HALL AS REQUIRED BY LAW FROM DECEMBER 12, 2023 TO DECEMBER 22, 2023.



Kevin Timony, Village Clerk

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023



Notary Public

