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**Fw: Responses to Questions on Commonwealth Strategic Partners**

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**From** Jon Sorensen <jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us>

**Date** Fri 9/27/2024 8:04 AM

**To** Abigail Flynn <abigail.flynn@dillinghamak.us>

*Jon E. Sorensen*

*Deputy City Clerk*

*City of Dillingham*

Clerks Office: 907-842-5212

*Cell: 907-843-0914*

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**From:** Grover, Phyllis <phyllis@aberdeenmd.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 5:28 AM

**To:** Jon Sorensen <jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us>

**Subject:** Responses to Questions on Commonwealth Strategic Partners

Good morning Jon,

I have worked closely with Commonwealth Strategic Partners and our POC is Katie Hazlett with this firm.

Here are my responses:

1. Does your lobbyist, Commonwealth Strategic Partners, file their required reports on time? I have requested monthly reports and bi-weekly meetings which have been held regularly and I receive the monthly reporting as required.
2. Are you satisfied with efforts as your lobbyist? We are very satisfied with the federal lobbying work that we have received from Commonwealth Strategic Partners. We have been able to secure \$5.6 M in federal funds with their diligent work efforts. A portion of these funds were grant funds (RAISE and RCN) with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Ms. Hazlett reviewed and provided input on the grant applications and the deadlines for submission. In addition, she alerted my Department to federal grant opportunities for a variety of projects.
3. Are they easy to work with? Yes, Keith Pemrick and Katie Hazlett are responsive to our community needs and follow-up on project or federal funding opportunities.
4. Are they worth the expense? Yes, they are worth the annual expense due to their commitment with their clients and clear understanding of the federal government budgetary and earmark processes.
5. Do you recommend them? Yes, I would recommend them for their lobbyist services. We have built a good relationship with our Congressional officials and staff due to Commonwealth's efforts to represent the City of Aberdeen on rail, infrastructure, and recreational matters that impact our community.

If you need additional information, please contact me.  
Sincerely,

***Phyllis G. Grover***

Director of Planning and Community Development  
City of Aberdeen  
60 N. Parke Street  
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001  
410-272-1600 ext. 216

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**From:** Jon Sorensen <jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2024 7:05 PM

**To:** Grover, Phyllis <phyllis@aberdeenmd.gov>

**Subject:** Commonwealth Strategic Partners

Your name has been listed as a reference. Our city council is considering this firm to perform as our federal lobbyist. We will appreciate your response to the following five questions.

1. Does your lobbyist, Commonwealth Strategic Partners, file their required reports on time?
2. Are you satisfied with efforts as your lobbyist?
3. Are they easy to work with?
4. Are they worth the expense?
5. Do you recommend them?

Best regards,  
Jon

***Jon E. Sorensen***

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**Fw: Commonwealth Strategic Partners**

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**From** Jon Sorensen <jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us>  
**Date** Fri 9/27/2024 8:05 AM  
**To** Abigail Flynn <abigail.flynn@dillinghamak.us>

Response for the Federal Lobbyist search.

*Jon E. Sorensen*

*Deputy City Clerk*

*City of Dillingham*

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**From:** John Latini <jalatini@alaska.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 7:37 AM  
**To:** Jon Sorensen <jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Commonwealth Strategic Partners

Jon,

Appreciate your reaching out.

Just to be clear, the University of Alaska system, nor any of our campuses, are a client of Commonwealth Strategies. The University system is not making any recommendations for the city regarding hiring federal lobbyists.

I was asked to serve as a personal reference for the firm. I have known the founders for over a decade and worked with them in various capacities in prior lobbying jobs. They are excellent lobbyists. They understand DC, work hard for their clients, are responsive and have great connections. In my personal capacity, I recommend considering hiring them.

Again, this is not an official endorsement on behalf of the University of Alaska system. I am providing my own personal recommendation. On background, I've been with the University for over two years. Prior to that, I worked at Penn State University and before then two Members of Congress.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks.

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John Latini

Executive Director of Federal Relations  
University of Alaska (UA) System  
444 N. Capitol Street NW Suite 334  
Washington, DC 20001  
Cell: (202) 253-4691  
Email: [jalatini@alaska.edu](mailto:jalatini@alaska.edu)

On Thu, Sep 26, 2024 at 7:11 PM Jon Sorensen <[jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us](mailto:jon.sorensen@dillinghamak.us)> wrote:

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3. Are they easy to work with?
4. Are they worth the expense?
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Best regards,

*Jon E. Sorensen*

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