



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	November 13, 2025
Originating Department	Executive
Contact Person	Phillip Hill, City Administrator
Title	Resolution 25-2040/Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Agreement for 2026-2027 Federal Legislative Advocacy Services with The Johnston Group

Legislative History

- First Presentation/Action – November 13, 2025
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Attachments:

1. Resolution 25-2040/Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Agreement for 2026-2027 Federal Legislative Advocacy Services with The Johnston Group
 2. Consultant Contract (Exhibit A)
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Executive Summary

The City needs the support of the federal government as a funding partner for its future transportation and infrastructure projects. A federal government affairs advocate provides the City with a better opportunity to receive federal support for projects that will benefit Lake Forest Park. The City has worked with a federal government affairs advocate for several years and has been successful in securing federal support for a variety of projects. The Administration has negotiated a contract with The Johnston Group for federal advocacy services in 2026-2027.

Jake Johnston will serve as the consultant and will be on a retainer of \$3,925/month plus expenses (\$47,100/year), the same amount as during the 2024/2025 contract period. Mr. Johnston brings a wealth of experience. His current client list includes the Cities of Mountlake Terrace and Shoreline.

Background

This will be the City's tenth and eleventh years of contracting with The Johnston Group. The consultant's efforts are focused on the City's legislative agenda, including transportation projects. The City has developed a strong relationship with its federal delegation over the past several years.

Working with Mr. Johnston in 2026 and 2027 will enable the City to continue building and strengthening these relationships. The full scope of work is included in the packet. Highlights of the scope of work include:

- Identify funding needs and review capital improvement plans to identify funding eligibility
- Advise the City about which projects ought to be prioritized for federal grants or appropriations
- Review delegation legislative priorities and their impacts – both positive and negative
- Lobby the congressional delegation to support the City's goals
- Help the City create materials to highlight projects for the delegation
- Draft correspondence from the City to the delegation
- Schedule meetings in Washington, D.C. for City representatives to discuss the City's agenda with the delegation (up to two meetings)
- Issue monthly reports to the City
- Monitor all federal grant availability announcements

Fiscal & Policy Implications

The adopted budget allocates funding for this contract from the Surface Water Utility and Transportation Fund. If the City chooses not to continue the contract, it may terminate it with 30 days' notice, as specified in the contract language.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement	The City will continue working with the Johnston Group for federal legislative advocacy in 2026/2027.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement	The City will not have a federal legislative advocate.

Staff Recommendation

Move to approve Resolution No. 25-2040 to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement for 2026-2027 federal legislative advocacy services with The Johnston Group.