

## **MIAMI OFFICE**

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November 8, 2023

Mayor Jose Pepe Díaz City of Sweetwater 500 S.W. 109 Ave. Sweetwater, FL 33174

## Mayor Diaz:

Thank you very much for your interest in The Southern Group of Florida, Inc. (The Southern Group). We appreciate the opportunity to provide lobbying services to the City of Sweetwater in Florida. The Southern Group is committed to providing the highest level of service in furtherance of your goals. This agreement will describe the terms under which that representation will occur.

You have asked that we represent the City of Sweetwater before the legislative and executive branches of Florida government on matters related to appropriations. We will work closely with the City of Sweetwater's other lobbyists to secure said appropriations and ensure the needs of the city are met. The entire team of The Southern Group's lobbyists will be available to advance the interests of the City of Sweetwater. You may wish to review in detail the qualifications of the team at <a href="https://www.thesoutherngroup.com">www.thesoutherngroup.com</a>. However, in order to ensure that your needs are efficiently and fully addressed, I will be the primary contact for this representation. If I should ever be unavailable, I would encourage you to contact Edgar Castro, Kate DeLoach, or Nelson Diaz. Our contact information is reflected on the attached sheet.

In exchange for these services, the City of Sweetwater has agreed to pay The Southern Group \$1,500 per month, for 12-months, beginning November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024. The Southern Group will send an invoice on the first of each month for the current month's services and payment is due by the end of each month. Our preferred method of payment is ACH or wire transfer. Otherwise, all payments should be remitted to P.O. Box 10570, Tallahassee, FL 32302. Payments for undisputed invoices received more than 60 days after their due date shall be charged a \$100 per day late fee for each day that payment is overdue. Please note that under no circumstances will work continue to be done by any lobbyist of The Southern Group if any invoice is unpaid beyond 90 days after their due date. The City of Sweetwater may terminate this Agreement prior to the expiration thereof and all fees then due and owing, in addition to all fees due and owing for the remainder of the term of the Agreement, shall be paid within 30 days. This agreement may only be modified in writing,

signed, and executed by both parties; electronic mail or communication shall not suffice to modify this agreement.

Also, by signing below, you agree that you will complete any forms necessary to comply with lobbyist registration requirements under Florida law that may arise as a result of our representation of the City of Sweetwater during the term of this contract or after its termination should reporting periods overlap.

Please be aware that Florida has a lobbying fee disclosure law that requires quarterly disclosure of fees. It should also be noted that The Southern Group has affiliated offices in other states and within the state of Florida. The Southern Group has a policy of declining representation of clients when that representation would immediately create a direct conflict with other clients that The Southern Group currently represents. You have retained The Southern Group for representation in Florida, and we know of no conflicts with our current clients. In order to ensure the candor and trust in our relationship that forms the basis of effective representation, it is the policy of The Southern Group to keep confidential within each office all information about your business interests and strategies.

I believe the above reflects our understanding. If it does, please sign this agreement and return with the completed client information, which is enclosed. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you. Please never hesitate to contact me if we can assist the City of Sweetwater in any way.

Sincerely,

**Avery Lopez** 

**Enclosures** 

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Date