



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS LAW DEPARTMENT

November 21, 2025

Honorable City Council
c/o Council President Lance Davis
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Item 25-1639 – Requesting approval to retain McHaffey & Nice, LLC, as outside
legal counsel with respect to employment matters relating to immigration status

Honorable Councilors:

The correspondence concerns the Council's approval of the Law Department's request to engage the outside legal services of McHaffey & Nice, LLC.

At the Council's November 13, 2025 meeting, the Law Department requested and obtained approval to engage McHaffey and Nice as outside counsel for employment matters relating to immigration status. During the discussion on the item, there was a question from the council on whether this was an attempt to renew a contract we already had in place before the contract expired next year. Labor Counsel Matt Sirigu stated it was a new contract with a new vendor to help the City navigate complex immigration issues. There was a comment from the council that this would be a contract for immigration legal services similar to one already in place that is set to expire next year and is funded through the immigration legal services stabilization fund the Council has approved. The Chair solicited and received no additional questions from the Council and proceeded with a vote on the item. Labor Counsel Sirigu attempted to clarify but his efforts were not successful before the Council approved the item.

The Law Department would like to clarify the purpose of this contract. The legal services procured will not be funded through or used in furtherance of the purposes of the immigration legal services stabilization fund. The immigration legal services McHaffey and Nice will be providing will be in support of the Human Resources Department when reviewing and approving employees' work authorization documentation and other employee-related immigration matters. Legal expertise in this area is needed as a result of the changes being made to humanitarian immigration programs (e.g. TPS) and the pending court challenges to the Federal Administration's changes to these programs.



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The Law Department is available to discuss this engagement further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Sirigu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew V. Sirigu
Assistant City Solicitor/ Labor Counsel