

September 9, 2022

The Honorable Chokwe Lumumba  
Mayor  
Jackson City Hall  
219 South President Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Dear Mayor Lumumba,

It was an honor to join my colleagues at Squire Patton Boggs – Rodney Emery and Kasim Reed – in speaking with you and your team last week regarding the existing water crisis faced by the City of Jackson. We certainly appreciate your pursuit of a solution that will address the existing challenges of fixing the City’s water system. In that spirit, our firm stands ready to provide the City of Jackson with assistance for this monumental task.

As stated on our conference call, we believe we have the professional expertise and experience to provide you and your team with the counsel and guidance, as trusted advisors, to achieve both of your short and long-term goals. Our bipartisan public policy team is comprised of former federal and local officials who understand how the levers of government work and possess the key relationships to work effectively with the most senior decision-makers at the federal level.

Our team is prepared to provide the City of Jackson with strategic counsel for your engagement with the federal government. We can provide guidance and advocacy on behalf of the City during its engagement with both the Biden Administration and U.S. Congress. Specifically, we can serve as your advisors and representatives with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and all other relevant federal agencies. We can also assist with identifying and pursuing existing and future federal earmarks and grant opportunities that match your short and long-term goals. In sum, we can tailor our advocacy services to align with the City of Jackson’s priorities as the engagement to solve the water crisis progresses.

## Local Government Practice

With more than five decades of experience in public policy, Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) is one of the leading law firms with a local government practice in Washington. We recognize that effective federal advocacy for local governments requires a specialized focus and substantive expertise. Acknowledging the importance of the national associations representing those interests, we determined that individual localities must interact directly and regularly with the federal government to resolve specific local concerns and partner with other localities on positions that the broad-based associations' constituencies cannot address. By focusing on developing subject matter policy and program capabilities in local government issues and tailoring special services to public sector clients, we have established a long record of representing counties and cities, as well as transportation/transit authorities, utilities, special districts, state agencies, public health consortia and hospitals, universities, community development corporations, and similar entities.

We appreciate the uniqueness of each of our clients, and given our in-depth knowledge of federal programs, funding formulas, and agency processes, we capitalize on these unique qualities to maximize opportunities for each client. Similarly, Congressional delegations have different approaches, levels of influence, and strengths, with each requiring individually tailored advocacy strategies. Through our significant experience representing a diverse set of localities and public agencies, we engage deeply with Congressional staff in various offices working on an array of issues. We are a respected, established voice before Congressional Committees, Executive Branch officials, community groups, and other stakeholders and decision-makers.

The localities that choose our firm and the long-term continuation of those representations through changes in local political administrations attest to the quality of service we provide and the results we achieve. This is reflected in our representation of: the City of Portland, OR, for over 30 years; the City of Las Vegas, NV, for over 20 years; the City of New Orleans, LA, for over 12 years; and the City of Mesa, AZ, for over 15 years. We also represent the City of Detroit, Montgomery Alabama, Miami-Dade County, Hillsborough County (FL), Greenville (SC), among other jurisdictions.

## Relevant Experience

### Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

In terms of a long term strategy, seeking a WIFIA loan for the water treatment facility and pumps should be explored. These are long term, low interest loans for infrastructure projects. While we recognize that grants are preferable to loans, this is an option that could provide additional assistance.

Drawing on our infrastructure finance expertise, we played a leading role on behalf of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) in developing, drafting, and advocating for the landmark WIFIA loan program designed to address critical water infrastructure needs unmet by other finance tools. Modelled on the highly successful Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program, WIFIA provides low-cost, long-term loans to lower the cost of water infrastructure projects, focusing specifically on large projects with difficulty accessing adequate funding from other sources. Furthermore, we successfully advocated for the repeal of

WIFIA's ban on co-financing with tax-exempt debt, securing language repealing the ban in the surface transportation bill. Since the WIFIA program's creation, a number of our clients have successfully sought loans from the program, including, but not limited to: San Diego (\$614 million); Miami-Dade County (\$660 million in FY20 alone); Portland, Oregon (\$727 million); and Boise (\$272 million).

*Success with Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending*

Last year, we welcomed the return of appropriations earmarks as an avenue to obtain federal funding for the priorities of our public sector clients. Our experience and expertise in the budget process enables us to work with our clients to develop a comprehensive, diverse, and competitive array of projects to submit to the delegations. Overcoming the challenges of an expedited timeline, and unfamiliarity with the process, in the FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, this team helped to secure the following:

- ☐ \$5 million – Morrison Road Improvements, New Orleans, LA
- ☐ \$3 million – Historic Westside Complete Streets, Las Vegas
- ☐ \$700,000 – Taxi-lane D Rehabilitation, City of Boise Airport Department
- ☐ \$1 million – Taxiway Improvements, Philadelphia International Airport
- ☐ \$200,000 – Small business initiative, Detroit, MI
- ☐ \$715,000 – Gun violence reduction, Detroit, MI
- ☐ \$800,000 – Septic-to-sewer project, Hillsborough County, FL
- ☐ \$437,200 – Small Business Support Center, Las Vegas, NV
- ☐ \$1.6 million – Water infrastructure, Leon County, FL
- ☐ \$1 million – School improvements, Leon County, FL
- ☐ \$700,000 – Septic-to-sewer project, Miami-Dade County, FL
- ☐ \$1 million – Drinking mains, Miami-Dade County, FL
- ☐ \$1.6 million – Biscayne Bay Water Pump, Miami-Dade County, FL
- ☐ \$200,000 – Violence Prevention Outreach, Portland, OR
- ☐ \$2.67 million – Behavioral Health Center, Portland, OR
- ☐ \$300,000 – Small business improvements, Mesa, AZ
- ☐ \$250,000 – Mobile health initiative, Ohio University, OH

- ❑ \$500,000 – Central Booking Technology and Equipment Enhancement, Cuyahoga County, OH
- ❑ \$500,000 – Diversion and Mental Health and Addiction Services Initiative, Cuyahoga County, OH
- ❑ \$300,000 – Microgrid Design Project, Cuyahoga County, OH

It is also important for local governments to advance programmatic and policy priorities for consideration in the appropriations process. As such, we continue to vigorously lead efforts to protect federal programs of priority to local government interests from further deficit reduction cuts through the appropriations process, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Capital Investment Grants (CIP) Program, Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and others. Squire Patton Boggs is also adept at crafting appropriations report language that directs funding in generic terms, but which, in actuality, only applies to one specific jurisdiction.

#### Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funding

On behalf of the Midland Business Alliance and related stakeholders (City of Midland, Midland County, and others), we successfully advocated before the House Appropriations Committee for CDBG-DR funding which is used to assist cities, counties, and states in recovering from presidentially declared disasters. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded a \$59 million grant to the region of Michigan adversely affected by historic flooding in Midland and local communities.

#### FEMA Cost Share Adjustment

On behalf of the Midland Business Alliance and related stakeholders (City of Midland, Midland County, and others), we worked closely with the National Association of Counties and other organizations to secure language in the fiscal year 2022 Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill to increase the federal cost share provided to local communities affected by major disasters in calendar years 2020 and 2021. The cost-share was adjusted from 75 percent federal/25 percent local to no less than 90 percent federal/10 percent local. A similar effort could be undertaken to address FEMA relief provided to communities like Jackson (MS) for natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2022.

#### Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

On behalf of the Midland Business Alliance and related stakeholders (City of Midland, Midland County, and others), we worked closely with the Michigan congressional delegation to include bill language in both the House and Senate WRDA bills authorizing a feasibility study for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration in Midland County (MI). Authorizing language for a feasibility study is the first step in potentially securing significant levels of appropriated funding for long-term flood reduction in the region.

## Our Team

Our preeminent Public Policy Practice is consistently ranked among the leading advocacy firms in the nation. The connections to the Washington policy world and their experience and understanding of the U.S. Government's inner workings provide unique vantage points to guide our federal lobbying practice. The lead contacts of our team will be SPB Principal Rodney Emery, former Atlanta Mayor, Kasim Reed and former Congressional Aide and SPB Principal, Caren Street. Rounding out our team will be Vicki Cram, co-chair of the Firm's Local Government practice and former House Appropriations Subcommittee Staff Director David LesStrang. As an SPB Senior Partner, I will provide oversight and ensure that all necessary resources of the firm are available to our most capable team.

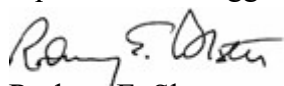
## Closing

Mayor Lumumba, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your team in pursuit of a resolution to the existing water crisis facing the City of Jackson. We are deeply committed to our clients and respect the nature of representing cities led by dynamic leaders such as yourself. We are ever mindful of our role as an extension of the elected and appointed leaders of a municipality, and our clients trust our advice and counsel because of our integrity and discretion. The successes of public entities that work with Squire Patton Boggs, and our representation through the various challenges faced by public clients, attest to the quality we provide and the results we achieve.

We love the work we do and would be honored to work with you, the City of Jackson, and its many supporters as you tackle this complex matter. We are pleased to have this opportunity to highlight our capabilities and look forward to discussing an agreement that will provide us the ability to perform the services necessary to achieve the outcomes required to restore the City of Jackson. We look forward to speaking with you regarding the next steps of this engagement.

Sincerely,

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP



Rodney E. Slater  
Senior Partner