



June 10, 2009

DAVID URGES CITY TO KEEP PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT FUNDS IN THE COMMUNITY

-\$590,000 CONTRACT AWARDED TO ROCHESTER, NY FIRM MISGUIDED-

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Mayoral Candidate Rich David today expressed concern over the recent award of a City contract to a firm with offices in Rochester, NY, citing two local businesses submitted qualification statements demonstrating they were qualified to do the work.

On May 4, 2009 City Council approved a resolution to award Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc., a contract not to exceed \$590,000 for professional/design services for the Front Street Gateway Project.

“Both Delta Engineers and Shumaker Consulting Engineers, which are based in Binghamton, expressed strong interest in this project and were both qualified to do the work,” said David. “Local government should award projects that are funded with local, state or federal dollars to local firms whenever possible. Supporting local labor and local firms keeps our tax dollars local, which benefits our regional economy. With two local firms that were qualified for this job, I am concerned that \$590,000 went out of our region.”

David highlighted that Shumaker Consulting Engineers was the firm that received the award to design the Court Street Gateway Project, which is similar in size and scope of the design for the Front Street Gateway Project. David added the City also hired Delta Engineers to do the design work for the Front Street Railroad Bridge Project.

“Both Delta and Shumaker have demonstrated that they have the professional experience, local familiarity and expertise to successfully design multi-million dollar public infrastructure projects in the City of Binghamton,” continued David. “It’s extremely unfortunate that our region missed out on an opportunity to keep \$590,000 local.”

David also noted that City Code of Ordinances specifically outlines how professional firms are to be selected, citing that consulting or design/professional services must go through a quality based selection process, as opposed to lowest bidder. Under quality based selection the City presents a project to qualified firms, outlining the concept and intent of the project; then the firm will submit back to the City their qualifications to provide professional services for that particular project. Once this portion is complete, the City and selected firm determine the detailed scope of services and negotiate a fair price. Selection criteria may include similar services the company has provided to other clients in the past, experience of personnel, references, size of company, past performance & experience, etc. City Ordinance also states that preference will be given to firms that have their main headquarters located in Broome County.

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David applauded the fact that Shumaker Consulting Engineers relocated their office from Vestal to the City of Binghamton based on their commitment to the City and to facilitate their work with City, County and State governments. David also highlighted Delta Engineers, which recently expanded from the building at the corner of Court and Carroll Street, and is now located at 184 Court Street.

“Without question these two firms have demonstrated their commitment to the City of Binghamton and have established themselves as qualified to provide the type of design services required for the Front Street Gateway Project,” added David. “By utilizing local firms when possible we can maximize the financial and economic impact of multi-million dollar state and federal funds that are earmarked for local infrastructure projects.”

“It’s also unfortunate that at a time when Broome County Government is actively and aggressively promoting a “Be Smart, Buy Broome” campaign that encourages residents and business owners to spend money locally, and touts its benefits, that the City has agreed to send up to \$590,000 out of our community,” continued David. “Local businesses are the economic engine that drives our community and we must support them whenever an opportunity occurs.”

##END##