

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH O'ROURKE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA RELATIONS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTING SERVICES

Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

Resolution No. 2026-XX

June 17, 2026

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (hereinafter, the “Authority” or “PhilaPort”) has been authorized under Section 6 of the Act of July 10, 1989, P.L. 290, No. 50, 55 P.S. Sections 697.1-697.24 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the “PRPA Act”) to make and enter into contracts in furtherance of its purposes; and

WHEREAS, Section 11(d) of the PRPA Act sets forth procedures whereby such contracts may be awarded for professional services in furtherance of the powers and duties of the Authority without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority ("PRPA" or "PhilaPort") seeks to enhance public awareness and visibility of its brand, mission, operations, economic impact, capital development initiatives, and strategic objectives through a comprehensive external communications program; and

WHEREAS, O'Rourke Communications Group ("OCG"), has been identified as a highly respected communications strategy firm with extensive experience providing media relations, public affairs, and strategic communications services to public agencies and governmental entities such as PhilaPort; and

WHEREAS, OCG has a demonstrated record of success in developing and executing communications strategies for public-sector entities; and

WHEREAS, OCG has proposed to provide strategic communications consulting services to PhilaPort for the period commencing on or about June 18, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, for a monthly consulting fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) as set forth in Exhibit A, and Staff has been determined that the monthly fee is fair and reasonable for the services to be rendered; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors, based upon information presented to it has determined that the engagement of OCG is in the best interests of the Authority to support the Authority's public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and strategic communications objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority hereby authorizes the Executive Director and CEO to execute a Professional Services Agreement with O'Rourke Communications Group, LLC for strategic communications and media relations services substantially consistent with the information presented to the Board and embraced in Exhibit "A".
2. Compensation under the Agreement shall be Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) per month, for a total contract amount not to exceed Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000), subject to the availability of funds and compliance with all applicable procurement and contracting requirements.

PROPOSED

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH O'ROURKE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC FOR
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA RELATIONS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CONSULTING SERVICES
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority**

**Resolution No. 2026-XX
June 17, 2026**

MOVED:

SECONDED:

APPROVAL:

Qualified Majority Required: Yes

Pearson*

Bryan**

Clark*

Cuff**

Maser*

Shacklett**

Butler**

Santone***

Pearlman*

Skoutelas***

Gubernatorial Appointee*

Legislative Appointee**

Gubernatorial Appointee - County Recommendation ***



EXHIBIT "A"

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Martin O'Rourke
O'Rourke Communications Group, LLC

TO: Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
PhilaPort - The Port of Philadelphia

RE: Proposal for Communications/Advertising Consulting & Media Relations

DATE: June 4, 2026

... about the firm

Described by The Philadelphia Inquirer as "one of the most visible media consultants in Philadelphia," Martin "Marty" O'Rourke has cemented his reputation as a premier communications strategist. As the owner and principal of O'Rourke Communications Group, he pairs high-level media relations with deep public sector expertise. Notably, his strategic campaigns recently secured nearly \$4 million in positive earned media coverage for the Philadelphia Parking Authority over a three-year period.

A former VISTA volunteer and congressional aide, Mr. O'Rourke has spent decades advising key public, civic, and government entities throughout Pennsylvania and other mid-Atlantic states. His extensive portfolio has included commanding strategic communications for the Philadelphia Parking Authority, the Office of the Philadelphia City Controller, the Philadelphia Courts of Common Pleas (First Judicial District), and members of Philadelphia City Council. He has also served as a trusted advisor to labor unions, members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, former Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, and the Octavius V. Catto Memorial Fund.

... the proposal

The firm of O'Rourke Communications Group (OCG) proposes to work with PhilaPort - The Port of Philadelphia -- Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA) -- and designated staff for a monthly consulting fee of \$7,500 — beginning June 18, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 — to assist in developing and implementing an on-going external communications plan. The firm's principal, Martin O'Rourke, will serve as the primary contact for the agency, act as agency spokesperson and handle all incoming media inquiries — as well manage the logistics for all press conferences, broadcast interviews, public hearings, and live events.

Simultaneously, the firm will drive day-to-day client visibility by producing any radio/television and video advertisements, drafting speeches, press releases, guest commentaries, and maintaining routine contact with news reporters, producers, and editors.

Upon PhilaPort's request, the firm will also serve as the agency's advertising consultant and produce any requested commercials and/or public service announcements for television, radio and/or social media advertising, as well as place any advertising media buys for radio, broadcast television and/or social media.

PROPOSED

BOARD RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF CONVERGE PUBLIC STRATEGIES

Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

Resolution No. 2026-XX

June 17, 2026

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (hereinafter, the “Authority” or “PhilaPort”) has been authorized under Section 6 of the Act of July 10, 1989, P.L. 290, No. 50, 55 P.S. Sections 697.1-697.24 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the “PRPA Act”) to make and enter into contracts in furtherance of its purposes; and,

WHEREAS, Section 11(d) of the PRPA Act sets forth procedures whereby such contracts may be awarded for professional services in furtherance of the powers and duties of the Authority without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Authority seeks to strengthen its federal advocacy efforts to advance its strategic priorities, including infrastructure investment, maritime development, supply chain resilience, and economic growth through effective engagement with the United States Congress, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Converge Government Affairs LLC (“Converge”) is a government relations firm with extensive experience representing public agencies, transportation entities, and infrastructure-focused organizations before the federal government; and

WHEREAS, Converge has submitted a proposal to provide federal government relations representation services to PhilaPort for a term commencing on or about July 1, 2026, and continuing through June 30, 2027, in accordance with the scope of services and compensation outlined in its proposal (attached hereto as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed the proposal and determined that the scope of services and compensation are fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors, based upon the information presented, has determined that the engagement of Converge is necessary and appropriate to support the Authority’s federal advocacy objectives and advance its strategic initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the engagement of Converge Public Strategies to provide professional consulting services in support of PhilaPort's infrastructure initiatives at a rate of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) per month) for a one (1) year period.

2. The Executive Director and CEO of PhilaPort is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate, finalize, and execute an agreement with Converge Public Strategies.
3. PhilaPort is empowered to take all actions consistent with the above to execute all documents, and undertake all measures deemed necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent and purposes of this Resolution.

PROPOSED

**BOARD RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES OF CONVERGE PUBLIC STRATEGIES
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority**

**Resolution No. 2026-XX
June 17, 2026**

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APPROVAL:

Qualified Majority Required: Yes

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Gubernatorial Appointee*

Legislative Appointee**

Gubernatorial Appointee - County Recommendation ***

PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS REPRESENTATION

**PREPARED FOR:
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PHILAPORT
(PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY)**

PREPARED BY:





I. Executive Summary

The Port of Philadelphia (PhilaPort) is at a historic crossroads. As the nation celebrates the Semiquincentennial in 2026, PhilaPort is moving aggressively to implement its **Destination 2040** master plan. However, the path to doubling container capacity and achieving zero-emission goals is obstructed by complex federal mandates.

Converge Public Strategies proposes to serve as your federal advocate, deploying a specialized team to navigate the "Buy America" (BABA) crisis for ship-to-shore cranes and the environmental complexities of Delaware River expansion under NOAA jurisdiction.

II. Your Converge Leadership Team

We have assembled a "Triangle Philosophy" team that blends executive strategy, legislative muscle, and technical regulatory expertise:



Elnatan Rudolph
Founder & CEO

Strategic Oversight: Elnatan will align PhilaPort's expansion with the national economic and security agenda, ensuring the Port's needs are prioritized by the White House and Department of Commerce.



Carlos Cruz
Partner

Legislative & BABA Lead: A veteran of the appropriations process, Carlos will lead the charge on BABA waiver advocacy and secure continued bipartisan support from the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.



Gerard O'Rourke
Partner

Regulatory & NOAA Lead: With deep expertise in infrastructure logistics, Gerard will manage the technical interface with NOAA Fisheries and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding environmental mitigation.



III. Tactical Roadmap: Solving the 2026 Bottlenecks

Pillar I: BABA (Build America, Buy America) & Crane Procurement

PhilaPort's \$80M EPA Clean Ports grant and Tioga Marine Terminal modernization are currently threatened by BABA requirements for zero-emission ship-to-shore (STS) cranes.

- **Waiver Campaign:** Carlos Cruz will execute a "Public Interest and Nonavailability" waiver strategy with the EPA and DOT. We will argue that since zero-emission STS cranes are not currently produced at scale domestically, a waiver is essential to prevent stalling the \$2B Destination 2040 timeline.
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** We will engage with the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure to advocate for a transition period, allowing for the purchase of foreign-made electric cranes while U.S. manufacturing scales up.
- **Security Vetting:** We will proactively address "foreign country of concern" (Section 301) tariff issues and cybersecurity risks, positioning PhilaPort as a model for secure, modernized maritime infrastructure.



Pillar II: NOAA Fisheries & Port Expansion Mitigation

The deepening of the Delaware River and the Southport Terminal expansion require constant coordination with **NOAA Fisheries (NMFS)** regarding the habitat of the Shortnose and Atlantic Sturgeon.

- **BiOp Consultation Management:** Gerard O'Rourke will oversee the Section 7 consultation process to ensure that "incidental take" limits and construction windows do not cause costly delays for the Southport North Wharf infill.
- **Mitigation as Opportunity:** We will advocate for the inclusion of PhilaPort's habitat restoration projects as "mitigation credits" to streamline future NEPA reviews for Destination 2040 projects.
- **Climate Resiliency Narrative:** We will leverage NOAA's Philadelphia tide and climate data to secure "Resilient Infrastructure" grants, turning regulatory compliance into a funding stream.

PROPOSED

Text
Text



IV: Compensation & Engagement Terms

Converge Public Strategies proposes a professional services agreement structured to provide PhilaPort with consistent, high-level access and strategic execution.

Service Item	Fee Structure
Monthly Professional Retainer	\$12,000 / Month
Retainer Scope	Includes all federal advocacy, grant positioning, BABA waiver navigation, and NOAA regulatory liaison services provided by the lead partners.
Travel Expense	Not included in Retainer. Travel required for D.C. fly-ins, on-site port visits, or agency meetings will be billed at cost with prior approval from PhilaPort leadership.

V: Conclusion

The hurdles facing PhilaPort in 2026 are not merely technical—they are political and regulatory. With **Elnatan Rudolph, Carlos Cruz, and Gerard O'Rourke**, Converge Public Strategies provides the specific expertise required to turn BABA and NOAA "red tape" into a roadmap for growth.

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH
DISTRICT COUNCIL 33 – LOCAL 1510**

Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

**Resolution No. 2023-XX
June 17, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (“PhilaPort”) has been authorized under Section 6 of the Act of July 10, 1989, P.L. 55 P.S. Sections 697.1-697.24 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the “PRPA Act”) to appoint officers, agents and employees and to prescribe their duties and fix their compensation as well as to make and enter into contracts in furtherance of its purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of PhilaPort has determined on the basis of information provided to it (which information is attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein by reference), to entering into an agreement with Local 1510, District Council 33, AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That PhilaPort enter into an agreement with Local 1510, District Council 33 AFSCME, AFL-CIO as described in Exhibit “A”.
2. That the Executive Director and CEO of PhilaPort, with the advice of its Chief Counsel, is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the specific terms and conditions of the agreement, and the Executive Director and CEO is hereby authorized and directed to execute, acknowledge and deliver on behalf of the PhilaPort any agreements, documents of other instruments as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of such agreement.

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH
DISTRICT COUNCIL 33 – LOCAL 1510
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority**

**Resolution No. 2026-XX
June 17, 2026**

MOVED:

SECONDED:

APPROVAL:

Qualified Majority Required: Yes

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Gubernatorial Appointee*

Legislative Appointee**

Gubernatorial Appointee - County Recommendation ***



MEMORANDUM

TO: PhilaPort Board of Directors

FROM: James Walsh, Sr. Director of Operations *JBW*

DATE: June 9, 2026

RE: **LOCAL 1510 DISTRICT COUNCIL 33, AFSCME,
AFL-CIO UNION AGREEMENT**

PhilaPort currently employs Local 1510 District Council 33 as members of our maintenance department. This past April, the contract expired and was subject to brief negotiations. We recently concluded negotiations with the union, agreeing to enter into a new three-year contract. The changes to the new contract are limited to an annual wage increase of five percent effective on May 1st of each contract year and adjusting daily start time from 7:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. The new contract will be retroactive to May 1, 2026 and will run through April 30, 2029.

Recommendation:

That the PhilaPort Board of Directors authorizes PhilaPort to enter a new three-year contract with Local 1510 District Council 33 with the above referenced terms.

JBW:ccf