



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE AGENDA

13-0682

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Harry A. Stewart, City Attorney

DATE: May 7, 2013

TITLE: Status Report: HOPWA Agreement with Legal Aid Services of Broward County, Inc.

Recommendation

This status report is intended to provide the Mayor and City Commission with the correspondence received from the law firm of White & Case LLP (see Exhibit 1) in response to the City's request for an Affidavit from Sharon Bourassa, Esq. attorney with Legal Aid Service of Broward County (see Exhibit 2).

The letter from White & Case LLP does not address the Commission's request, as such I reiterate my previous recommendation.

Background

At its meeting on April 16, 2013, CAM # 13-0552 (see Exhibit 3), the Mayor and City Commission reviewed the City Manager's request for a legal interpretation of U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development's 3/22/13 letter re: City's HOPWA Agreement with Legal Aid of Broward County, Inc.

During the discussion, the Mayor and City Commission pre-conditioned any award of HUD HOPWA program money upon the City receiving a signed affidavit from Sharon Bourassa, Esq. affirming she had no knowledge of fraudulent activity taking place in the HUD HOPWA program, as was alleged in the Second Amended Counterclaim – Class Action and Demand for Jury Trial (under Case No. 10-61122-Civ-JIC, City of Fort Lauderdale v. Hezekiah Scott, *et al.*)

Resource Impact

No fiscal impact

05/07/2013

13-0682

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Attachment(s)

Exhibit 1 – Letter from White & Case LLP dated April 26, 2013

Exhibit 2 – Affidavit forwarded to Sharon Bourassa, Esq.

Exhibit 3 – CAM #13-0552

Prepared By: Meredith Shuster, Paralegal

Department Director: Harry A. Stewart, City Attorney