



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
REGULAR MEETING**

**#24-0031**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney

**DATE:** January 9, 2024

**TITLE:** Resolution Appointing the Law Firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., as Special Counsel, to Represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in Connection with the Unsolicited Proposal and Project Submitted by Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale, LLC to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Water Taxi Terminal, or if Necessary any Subsequent-Ranked Proposers, for the Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of a Water Taxi Terminal on City-owned property located at 1001 Seabreeze Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida - **(Commission District 2)**

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**Recommendation**

The City Attorney recommends that the City Commission adopt a resolution appointing Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., as special counsel to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with the unsolicited proposal and project submitted by Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale, LLC, or if necessary any subsequent-ranked proposers, for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a Water Taxi Terminal on City-owned property located at 1001 Seabreeze Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Background**

Section 4.10 of the Charter of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, provides, in part, that “[t]he city commission may, by resolution, authorize one (1) or more special counsel to be retained for the purpose of performing such legal duties as may be prescribed by said resolution. Each such resolution shall further prescribe the compensation to be paid the special counsel.”

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., who has represented the City on other varied legal matters, is well experienced in public-private transactions. The Firm has a strong array of attorneys with relevant experience.

The law firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L. shall be compensated for such services assigned after the effective date of this Resolution, at the hourly rates of \$450.00 per hour for shareholders and partners, \$225.00 per hour for associates, and \$95.00 per hour for paralegals, to be paid upon the submission of periodic invoices to and approval by the City Attorney.

**Resource Impact**

Funds for this agreement in the amount of \$35,000.00 are available in the FY 2024 Budget in the account listed below:

<i>Funds available as of December 28, 2023</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-1202-514-30-3119	City Attorney	Services & Materials/ Legal Services	\$1,288,261	\$1,110,422	\$35,000.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ►</b>					\$35,000.00

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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Prepared by: Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney

Charter Officer: Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney