



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0897

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

FROM: D'Wayne Spence, Interim City Attorney

DATE: October 7, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Appointing the Law Firm of Bilzin Sumberg, as Special Counsel,
to Represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in Connection with the
Construction of City Hall and Prescribing Hourly Rates – **(Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution appointing the law firm of Bilzin Sumberg, as Special Counsel, to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with advising, negotiating and drafting the appropriate documents with respect to the new City Hall, and prescribing the hourly rates to be paid for such legal services.

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."

Bilzin Sumberg will provide legal counsel and advice as well as drafting the appropriate legal documents related to all aspects of constructing the new City Hall and will provide advice and counsel on the Public-private Partnership statute, (Fla. Stat. § 255.065). In the event the City decides to pursue, public financing for City Hall, representation of the City on such financing shall be assigned to Greenberg Traurig pursuant to the usual fee arrangement.

Bilzin Sumberg also represents the City on Bahia Mar under Resolution No. 23-156 which has a separate fee arrangement. Joe Hernandez, of Bilizin Sumberg, is the lead attorney on that transaction.

Retention of this law firm is subject to the City Attorney's waiver of conflicts of interest as described in Section 1 of Resolution No. 04-55, after notice of such impending waiver is provided to members of the City Commission at least 10 days in advance of the waiver being granted and provided no member of the City Commission raises an objection.

The law firm of Bilzin Sumberg shall be compensated for such services at the rate of **\$715** per hour for partners and associates plus reimbursement for reasonable third-party expenses, 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 \$150,000.00 are available in the FY 2026 Budget in the account(s) listed below:

<i>Funds available as of October 1, 2025</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	\$1,359,239.00	\$1,359,239.00	\$150,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$150,000.00

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution No. 04-55

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Lynn Solomon, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

Charter Officer: D'Wayne Spence, Interim City Attorney