



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

**#25-0924**

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

**FROM:** D'Wayne Spence, Interim City Attorney

**DATE:** October 7, 2025

**TITLE:** Resolution Appointing Hudson Gill, Esq. of the Law Firm of Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A., as Special Counsel, to Represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in Connection with River Carlton Taylor, LLC v. State of Florida, a Political Subdivision, et al., River Landings Phase One Homeowners Association, Inc., a Florida Corporation, Case No.: CACE 24-016473(09), and Prescribing Hourly Rates – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution appointing Hudson Gill, Esq. of the law firm of Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A., as Special Counsel, to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with River Carlton Taylor, LLC v. State of Florida, a political subdivision, et al., River Landings Phase One Homeowners Association, Inc., a Florida Corporation, Case No.: CACE 24-016473(09) ("River Carlton v River Landings Litigation"), 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."

The Plaintiff in this case is attempting to quiet title to (A) what is described as a Private Road for Ingress, Egress and Access Purposes and (B) a 10-foot Additional Right of Way Dedication on the face of the Plat, River Landings Phase One, Plat Book 83, Page 38 (the "Plat").

As to (A) there is a Drainage and Utility Easement that occupies the same area as (A). The City needs to ensure that Plaintiff's action for quiet title to (A) does not interfere with the City's required access to the Drainage and Utility Easement for maintenance and repair.

As to (B), the right-of-way was dedicated on the face of the Plat providing for the future widening of Riverland Road. At the time the Plat was recorded, this area was in the unincorporated Broward County. The area was annexed into the City of Fort Lauderdale in 2002. Pursuant to the Annexation Agreement jurisdiction for Engineering/Right of Way Management and Street Maintenance for (B) has been assigned to the City.

It is appropriate to file a Motion to Intervene in this case to protect the City's interests in (A) and (B) because of the lack of clarity in the pleadings.

It is recommended that the City Commission appoint Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A., as special counsel to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with the River Carlton v River Landings Litigation, and prescribing the hourly rates to be paid for such legal services.

### **Resource Impact**

Funds for this agreement in the amount of \$15,000.00 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<br>(Program) | CHARACTER CODE/<br>SUB-OBJECT<br>NAME   | AMENDED<br>BUDGET<br>(Character) | AVAILABLE<br>BALANCE<br>(Character) | AMOUNT          |
| 10-001-1202-514-30-3119                      | City Attorney           | Services & Materials/<br>Legal Services | \$1,359,239                      | \$1,359,239                         | \$15,000        |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT ►</b>                        |                         |   |                                  |                                     | <b>\$15,000</b> |

### **Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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Prepared by: Robert Oldershaw, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

Charter Officer: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney