



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

#23-1200

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

FROM: Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney

DATE: December 19, 2023

TITLE: Resolution Appointing the Law Firm of Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzzio, PLLC, to Represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in Connection with General Liability Claims and Related Litigation and Appeals 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 Roberts, Reynolds, Bedard & Tuzzio, PLLC, as special counsel, to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with general liability claims and related litigation and appeals, 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.”

It is recommended that the City Commission appoint special counsel to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with general liability claims and related litigation and appeals, and prescribing the hourly rates to be paid for such legal services. The purpose of the addition is to have more than one special counsel available in various practice areas thus streamlining the appointment process and eliminating delays in appointing and consulting with counsel in recurring matters and conflict situations.

Resource Impact

Funds for this agreement in the amount of \$20,000.00 are available in the FY 2024 Budget in the account(s) listed below:

<i>Funds available as of December 12, 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	\$1,136,152	\$20,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$20,000.00

Attachment

Exhibit 1 - Resolution

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

Charter Officer: Thomas J. Ansbrosio, City Attorney