



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

#26-0125

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

FROM: Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney

DATE: January 20, 2026

TITLE: Resolution Increasing the Compensation to be Paid to Special Counsel,
Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP, for Legal Services - **(Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

The City Attorney recommends that the City Commission adopt a resolution increasing the hourly fees and compensation to Special Counsel, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP.

Background

Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP have provided the City with specialized legal advice and counsel in connection with general airport matters, including but not limited to, regulatory matters. On July 10, 2012, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 12-131 appointing Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP as Special Counsel to advise the City in connection with the proposed update of Chapter 7, Airport Rules and Regulations of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale. On April 19, 2017, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 17-76 appointing Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP as Special Counsel to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale in connection with an enforcement proceeding before the Federal Aviation Administration and issues pertaining to the payments in lieu of taxes made by the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport from 2010 to 2016. On January 22, 2019, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 19-09 appointing Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP as Special Counsel to represent the City in connection with general airport matters pertaining to the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, and airport noise compatibility issues, 14 CFR Part 150 Airport Noise Compatibility Planning and Metroplex Studies pertaining to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Special Counsel requests an adjustment in legal service fees to account for inflation, the legal experience of their attorneys, new additions to the firm and other changes in the legal marketplace. The requested fees would increase from \$583.00 per hour to \$630.00 per hour for partners, \$575.00 per hour for counsel, from \$467.00 per hour to \$504.00 per hour for associates, and from \$204.00 per hour to \$220.00 per hour for paralegals/law clerks. The increase in fees would be retroactively effective starting January 1, 2026.

Resource Impact

Funds for special counsel legal services in the amount of \$40,000.00 are available in the FY 2026 Budget in the account listed below:

<i>Funds available as of January 12, 2026</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	\$598,730.00	\$40,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$40,000.00

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

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

Charter Officer: Shari L. McCartney, City Attorney