



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

#24-0287

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

FROM: Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney

DATE: March 5, 2024

TITLE: Resolution Appointing GrayRobinson, P.A. as Special Counsel to provide representation in the practice area of communications law – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

The City Attorney recommends that the City Commission adopt the attached resolution appointing the law firm of GrayRobinson, P.A., at the rate specified below, to serve as Special Counsel to the City regarding matters concerning communications law.

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 City requires the specialized legal services of Special Counsel in connection with the negotiation of a number of different contracts concerning state and federal communications law. Specifically, the City is currently engaged in negotiations with SiFi Networks, LLC to construct a fiber optic network throughout the City, and with Sensus USA, Inc. for the installation and monitoring of AMI meters. Both of these contracts contain elements that require specialized knowledge in communications law and the City Attorney recommends attorney Gary I. Resnick, of GrayRobinson, P.A. to represent the City in these matters. The proposed rates for GrayRobinson, P.A.’s services are \$460 per hour for Gary I. Resnick, \$250 per hour for of counsel and associates and \$150 per hour for law clerks and paralegals, plus reasonable costs.

Resource Impact

The fees and expenses for the special counsel will be included in and funded from the FY 2024 Budget in the account listed below:

<i>Funds available as of February 26, 2024</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	\$1,115,525	\$30,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$30,000

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Eric W. Abend, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Charter Officer: Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney