



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#19-0523

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 21, 2019

TITLE: Motion to Approve Increase in Funds for the Law Firm of Greenberg Traurig LLP, Special Counsel to the City of Fort Lauderdale, in Connection With the City's Withdrawal from the Various Agreements and Obligations Related to the Wave Modern Streetcar Project - **(Commission Districts 2 and 4)**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the addition of funds to the existing Special Counsel agreement (CAM #18-0673) with the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP in the amount of \$75,000.00.

Background

On June 19, 2018, the City Commission adopted a Resolution (CAM #18-0673) appointing Greenberg Traurig, LLP as Special Counsel to the City for the purpose of assisting with the City's withdrawal from the various agreements and obligations related to the Wave Modern Streetcar Project in the amount of \$70,000.00.

Subsequently, it was determined that it was necessary to hire a professional financial management consulting firm, Government Services Group, Inc. (GSG) to assist the City and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, with the process for refunding WAVE assessments collected since November 2013 on the ad valorem tax bills. The initial \$70,000.00 cap did not contemplate the additional fees charged by GSG which was established before they were hired. As a result of the fees and costs charged by GSG and Greenberg Traurig, LLP collectively, it has resulted in an overage of the initial cap. To date, Greenberg Traurig, LLP and GSG have billed the City \$70,063.53, which includes all time and costs through the end of February 2019.

It is estimated that the work performed by Greenberg Traurig, LLP and GSG on this project is at or near final completion. Additional funds are necessary to cover an outstanding invoice for legal services and expenses rendered by both entities for the month of March 2019 in the sum \$46,867.74, and any additional outstanding legal services and expenses.

Resource Impact

Funds for this agreement are available in the FY 2019 Budget in the account listed below.

<i>Funds available as of May 14, 2019</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB- OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
001-ATT010101-3119	City Attorney	Services & Materials/Legal Services	\$691,645	\$280,839	\$75,000
			TOTAL AMOUNT ►		\$75,000

The hourly rate of compensation for services is as follows:

Greenberg Traurig shall be paid a fee of the lesser of \$400.00 per hour or the Timekeeper's standard hourly billing rate, or with prior notice to the City Attorney for limited legal inquiries, \$500.00 per hour for shareholders, including reasonable expenses.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – CAM #18-0673

Prepared by: Maureen Richards, Law Office Manager, City Attorney's Office

Charter Officer: Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney