

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SUE GALLAGHER, CITY ATTORNEY
 JOANNE NARLOCH, ACTING HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TWO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS
 WITH RENNE PUBLIC LAW GROUP LLP

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Human Resources Department and City Attorney that Council, by Resolution: 1) approve two Professional Services Agreements with the newly formed law firm of Renne Public Law Group LLP consisting of former partners of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP; and 2) terminate two corresponding Professional Services Agreements, Agreement numbers F001469 and F001134, with the former Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP effective February 28, 2018.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Effective March 1, 2018, the partners and attorneys of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP (RSHS) are splitting into two separate law firms - Renne Public Law Group LLP and Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong LLP. For continuity of legal services provided by Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP, it is recommended that the City terminate the existing two active agreements effective February 28, 2018 (Labor and Advice and Employment Litigation) and substitute two new corresponding contracts with Renne Public Law Group LLP. The remaining funds on the two existing agreements will rollover and become the maximum compensation amount on the newly approved agreements.

BACKGROUND

Labor and Advice (F001134)

On February 11, 2016, by Resolution 28881, the Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with the law firm of RSHS to provide labor relations services including legal advice and assistance as requested by the City in connection with all aspects of labor negotiations. The Agreement was amended as follows:

- November 15, 2016: Increased the not-to-exceed amount to \$300,000.
- May 2, 2017: Increased the not-to-exceed amount to \$400,000.
- August 14, 2017: increased the not-to-exceed amount to \$800,000

There is an estimated \$83,255.56 remaining on the Labor and Advice Agreement No. F001134 after January 2018 invoicing is completed.

Employment Litigation (F001469)

On July 18, 2017, by Resolution RES-2017-144, the Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with the law firm of RSHS to provide employment litigation representation in the matter of *Aboudara, et al. v. City of Santa Rosa* in the amount of \$200,000.

There is an estimated \$84,250.28 remaining on the Employment Litigation Agreement No. F001469 after January 2018 invoicing is completed.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

As outlined in the Background above.

ANALYSIS

RSHS has been providing legal services to the Human Resources Department for two years and is currently operating under two separate contracts. The general Labor and Advice contract runs through June 30, 2018. The Employment Litigation contract runs through the course of the litigation, unless terminated earlier by either party upon appropriate notice. As of March 1, 2018, however, RSHS will no longer exist, having divided itself into two separate law firms.

Given the complexity of legal issues surrounding modern labor and employment matters, as well as continuity of legal representation on the employment litigation matter, the Human Resources Department and the City Attorney's Office recommend that the Council approve substitute contracts with the newly constituted firm of Renne Public Law Group LLP. The substitution will allow the City to continue to work with the same legal personnel in finishing out the current contract services. The remaining balance on the expiring contracts will roll over to the new Professional Services Agreements with Renne Public Law Group LLP. There will be no change in the dollar amount of either contract.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact. Funds have already been approved and appropriated.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution/Exhibit A/Exhibit B

CONTACT

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