



CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date:

ALL

Item Creation Date:

LGL - Legal Services Agreement - Husch Blackwell LLP

Agenda Item#:

Summary:

ORDINANCE approving and authorizing a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Houston and **HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP** to provide Legal Services; establishing a maximum contract amount - \$172,000.00 - Property and Casualty Fund

Background:

The City Attorney recommends City Council approve an ordinance authorizing a professional services agreement between the City of Houston ("City") and Husch Blackwell LLP ("Firm") with a maximum contract amount of \$172,000.00, to provide legal services in litigation regarding the challenge to the MBE portion of the City's MWSBE program. That lawsuit is styled Landscape Consultants of Texas, Inc., and Metropolitan Landscape Management, Inc. v. City of Houston and Midtown Management District, No. 4:23-cv-3516, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

This contract will involve consulting with attorneys in preparing the City's defense strategy, assisting with discovery, responding to Plaintiffs' dispositive motion, preparing the City's dispositive motion, arguing dispositive motions, preparing expert reports, preparing for and presenting both fact and expert witness deposition testimony, reviewing and analyzing opposing parties' expert reports, and assisting with preparing for opposing expert deposition.

The City recommends Husch Blackwell LLP because the Firm is on the approved list of counsel.

Hire Houston First: This procurement is exempt from the City's Hire Houston First Ordinance based on the department's determination that compliance with the ordinance would unduly interfere with contract needs.

Pay or Play: The proposed contract requires compliance with the City's Pay or Play ordinance regarding health benefits for employees of City contractors. In this case, the Firm will Pay in compliance with City policy.

MWBE Participation: This professional services agreement has obtained a goal waiver from the Office of Business Opportunity.

Fiscal Note: Funding for this item is included in the FY25 Adopted Budget. Therefore, no Fiscal Note is required as stated in the Financial Policies.

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Arturo G. Michel, City Attorney 9/16/2024

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16411844972611

Jedediah Greenfield, Chief Procurement Officer 9/17/2024

Estimated Spending Authority			
DEPARTMENT	FY2025	OUT YEARS	TOTAL
Legal Department	\$172,000.00	\$0	\$172,000.00

Amount and Source of Funding:

\$172,000.00
Property and Casualty Fund
Fund 1004

Contact Information:

Darah Eckert, (832) 393-6251
Erin Gage, (832) 393-6446

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Affidavit of Ownership
POP
MWBE Goal Waiver
Consolidated Memo 19 Panel Selections
RCA
Ordinance
Agreement for Professional Legal Services - signed

Type

Backup Material
Backup Material
Backup Material
Backup Material
Signed Cover sheet
Ordinance/Resolution/Motion
Contract/Exhibit