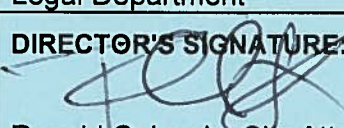


TO: Mayor via City Secretary

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

<b>SUBJECT:</b> An ordinance approving and authorizing an Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Houston and Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP for legal services in connection with Pension Reform; Providing a Maximum Contract Amount; Containing Provisions Relating to the Subject		<b>Page</b> 1 of 1	<b>Agenda Item #</b>
<b>FROM (Department or other point of origin):</b> Legal Department	<b>Origination Date</b> 11/10/2016	<b>Agenda Date</b>	
<b>DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b>  Ronald C. Lewis, City Attorney	<b>Council District affected: All</b>		
<b>For additional information contact</b> Lan Nguyen, 832-393-6386	<b>Date and identification of prior authorizing Council action:</b>		
<b><u>RECOMMENDATION: (Summary)</u></b> An ordinance approving and authorizing an Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Houston and Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP for legal services in connection with Pension Reform.			
<b>Amount and Source of Funding:</b> Initial Allocation: \$225,000.00 Maximum contract amount: \$225,000.00  <b>Source of funding: General Fund (1000)</b>			
<b><u>BACKGROUND:</u></b>  Mayor Sylvester Turner has proposed pension reforms to the three City employee pension systems and intends to present a pension reform solution in the form of legislation to the 85 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature. The City is seeking a contract for professional legal services with the firm of Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, (the "Firm").  The City Attorney recommends the Firm because of the handling lawyers' unique abilities and qualifications in the area of employee benefit plans for the public sector. This experience is critical to drafting legislation embodying proposed changes to the state pension statutes applicable to the City's three local pension systems.  <b><u>MWBE</u></b> Due to the unique nature of this representation, the Office of Business Opportunity approved a MWBE zero-percentage goal document.  <b><u>Pay or Play</u></b> The Firm has certified that it provides health benefits to eligible employees in compliance with the City policy.  <b><u>Hire Houston First</u></b> Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP is a Houston-based firm.			
<b>Other Authorization</b> <b>Finance</b>			