



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JULY 16, 2024
FROM: CITY ATTORNEY WARDS: ALL
SUBJECT: OUTSIDE COUNSEL EXPENDITURE REPORT

ISSUE:

The issue for City Council consideration is the Outside Counsel Expenditure Report for the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, as provided in the outside counsel policy approved by City Council on June 16, 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council receives and files the attached report.

BACKGROUND:

In the continuing effort of transparency and accountability, City Council approved the City Attorney’s recommendation of quarterly reporting of the outside counsel expenditures. This report includes expenditures for the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024, and the cumulative spending from inception of the matter grouped by law firm name. All closed matters are highlighted and will not be included in the next report. All law firms that are highlighted in orange will be removed from the attorney panel upon the specific matter(s) being completed. It should be noted that bond counsel and contingency payments are not paid through the City’s accounts payable division and therefore must be manually added to information derived from the City’s accounting system. In the case of bond counsel payments, the payments are typically made directly by the bond trustee from bond proceeds. In the case of contingency payments, the payments are typically deducted from the funds received prior to deposit by the City.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: The retention of experienced outside legal counsel and the accurate tracking of all outside legal counsel expenditures supports all priorities of the City of Riverside’s Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan.

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards & Commissions, and timely and reliable information. This report of outside legal counsel expenditures supports and aids the making of such decisions.
2. **Equity** – Use of outside counsel that specialize in specific areas of the law benefits the entire community by ensuring that such efforts comply with all aspects of the law.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The City Attorney’s Office is expending funds in a careful and judicious manner balanced against the need for specialized legal counsel when the circumstances warrant.
4. **Innovation** – The retention of specialized legal counsel to provide specialized legal advice supports City innovation efforts by ensuring that such efforts comply with all aspects of the law.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The retention of specialized legal counsel to provide specialized legal advice supports City goals of sustainability and resiliency by ensuring that such efforts comply with all aspects of the law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

FY 20/21				TOTAL
QTR 1	QTR2	QTR3	QTR4	
687,692	1,002,666	893,398	628,463	\$3,212,219

FY 21/22				TOTAL
QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR4	
857,745	553,639.77	398,734.57	175,471.02	\$1,985,590.36

FY 22/23				TOTAL
QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR4	
218,981.21	235,101.47	264,445.61	308,380.88	\$1,026,909.17

FY 23/24				TOTAL
QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR4	
316,770.19	287,910.61	305,075.47	-	\$909,756.27

Prepared by: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Attachment: Outside Counsel Expenditure Report FY 2023/24 3rd Quarter