

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/09/21

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 21-0171

LOG NAME: 12REDISTRICTINGCOUNSEL

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Employment of David Mendez and Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta LLP as Outside Legal Counsel for Assistance to the City Attorney's Office in Connection with Redistricting

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing employment of David Mendez and Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta LLP as outside legal counsel for assistance to the City Attorney's Office in connection with redistricting the City of Fort Worth's single member districts following the United States 2020 Census.

DISCUSSION:

Every ten years following completion of the constitutionally-mandated United States Census, the City of Fort Worth analyzes its population and redraws the boundaries of the various single-member Council districts. The United States 2020 Census is anticipated to reflect a significant increase in the population of the City of Fort Worth, which growth is not evenly distributed throughout the City.

Further, in 2016, voters of the City of Fort Worth approved an amendment to the City Charter to increase the number of City Council persons to eleven following the completion of the 2020 Census, which has the effect of adding two new council districts, further complicating the upcoming redistricting process.

Therefore, it is necessary to hire outside legal counsel with redistricting expertise to assist the City Attorney's Office in assuring that the City's redistricting efforts comply with all federal law. Pursuant to Chapter VI, Section 3, of the City Charter, the City Council must approve the hiring of outside counsel. David Mendez and other attorneys at Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta LLP have extensive expertise representing governmental entities in the legal processes and State and Federal law requirements concerning redistricting, and the City Attorney's Office recommends the City Council approve their hiring in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the recommendations, funds are available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, of the General Fund and that, prior to an expenditure being made, the participating department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: ALL ACMs 6222

Originating Business Unit Head: Sarah Fullenwider 7623

Additional Information Contact: Sarah Fullenwider 7623
Leann Guzman 8973

Expedited