



Administrative Report

H.17., File # 26-0430

Meeting Date: 4/14/2026

To: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: JOY A. FORD, CITY ATTORNEY

TITLE

APPROVE THE LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP FOR LEGAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Agreement for Legal Services with Covington & Burling LLP will allow Abigail O'Brien to continue to represent the City in Bankruptcy matters.

BACKGROUND

The City Attorney's office maintains a list of approved law firms and attorneys from which to select when special expertise is required on legal matters.

Attorney Abigail O'Brien was representing the City of Redondo Beach on Bankruptcy matters when she was employed at the law firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. Starting January 1, 2024, Ms. O'Brien moved to the law firm of Covington & Burling LLP. On April 2, 2024, the City entered into an Agreement for Legal Services, which terminated on December 31, 2024. The City entered into another agreement that expired on December 31, 2025.

This Agreement would allow Abigail O'Brien to continue her representation of the City of Redondo Beach on a complex Bankruptcy matter.

COORDINATION

The Agreement has been approved by Covington & Burling LLP and has been approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT

In 2024, Covington & Burling LLP offered a blended rate of \$760 an hour. They allowed the City to use this rate because it was the same fee structured used by Ms. O'Brien's former firm. Covington and Burling LLP is now requesting a fee increase to a blended rate of \$1,495. Ms. O'Brien and other senior lawyers have a standard billing rate of \$1,725. Associates have a billing rate of \$1,295. In the past year, the blended rate has proven to be a better fiscal option than paying the standard billing rates.

Submitted by:

Joy A. Ford, City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS

- Agreement