



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

May 3, 2021

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Request for Authorization to Amend the Existing Legal Service Agreement With the Law Firm of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC (Contract S17167696) to Increase the Contract Amount by an Additional \$45,000 for a new Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$385,000

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council approve and authorize an increase in the legal services agreement with the law firm of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC for litigation defense in the case of Green v. City of Palo Alto, et al., Santa Clara Co. Sup. Ct. Case No. 16CV300760 (Contract S17167696), by an additional \$45,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$385,000.

Discussion

In October 2016, the City retained Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC (Contract S17167696) to represent the City in the case of Miriam Green v. City of Palo Alto, et al., Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 16CV300760. An additional \$45,000 is needed to fund argument on Plaintiffs' attorneys fees, an anticipated post-trial motion and finalization of the Superior Court judgment, expected to occur in the late summer.

Resource Impact

The additional cost for the City's contract for legal services with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC of \$45,000 will be absorbed in the City Attorney's budget.

Environmental Review

Amendment of legal services contracts is not a project requiring environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Department Head: Molly Stump, City Attorney