



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

October 5, 2015

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Council Approval of Appointment of Terence Howzell to the Position of Principal Attorney

Recommendation

The City Attorney recommends that the Council approve the appointment of Terence J. Howzell to the position of Principal Attorney.

Background

The City Attorney makes appointments to positions in the City Attorney's Office. The City Attorney's appointments to senior attorney positions are subject to approval of the Council. (Municipal Code section 2.08.120(4).)

The Principal Attorney position was approved by the City Council as part of the Fiscal Year 2015 Midyear Budget Review report. The position is intended to strengthen strategic legal services with respect to both transactional/counseling and litigation functions. The Principal Attorney will assist the City Attorney in managing the day-to-day operations of the City Attorney's Office, support the legal team, and handle a variety of specialized areas with a significant role advising on complex projects and managing the City's litigation portfolio. Filling the position at this time will promote effective operations of the City and provide strategic resources to advance Council priorities.

Discussion

The City Attorney requests approval of the appointment of Terence J. Howzell to the position of Principal Attorney.

Mr. Howzell has been practicing law for 27 years, 18 of them in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, where he has served in increasingly senior positions. He has extensive experience counseling San Francisco City departments in the areas of employment law, labor relations, public contracting and general advice matters. He has litigated numerous disputes in state and federal courts and before a variety of administrative agencies. Mr. Howzell has served as a team leader with a track record of mentoring and supporting attorneys. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley (Boalt Hall), and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Dartmouth College.

Mr. Howzell will begin work on November 16, 2015.

Resource Impact

Mr. Howzell will be an “at will” employee, which means he will serve at the pleasure of the City Attorney and can be terminated or asked to resign at any time. His annual salary will be \$215,000, which is within the Council-approved range for the Principal Attorney position. Mr. Howzell will receive benefits as provided in the Council-approved Compensation Plan for Management and Professional Personnel.

Policy Implications

This appointment is consistent with existing City policies.

Environmental Review

Approval of the appointment is not a project subject to environmental review.

Department Head: Molly Stump, City Attorney

