

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

From: The City Manager

Subject: Approval of Agreement with Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. for Legal Services

Manager's Recommendation:

I recommend approval of the Agreement for Professional Legal Services with Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. This contract has been approved by the City Manager as to substance and the City Attorney as to form.

Justification:

The City has entered into agreements with various law firms to provide legal services to the City. These services are necessary in the areas of conflict of interest, expertise and work overflow. These contracts are five years in duration, but either party may elect to terminate the contract upon sixty days notice. There is no minimum amount of work guaranteed or promised to any law firm. The purpose of the contracts is to provide a pre-existing framework for assignments sent to the various firms. The contracts set the hourly rate for services and the amount of expenses charged.

The City currently uses Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C. for representation on an action against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. But that is a contingent fee agreement, specific to that action. The parties require a separate hourly agreement for other legal representation.

Council Action:

Council _____ moved that the recommendation from the City Manager be approved.