

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	21399	Agenda Number	13.
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Meeting Date:	2/14/2013	Department:	Legal
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## Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a legal services agreement with Mayer Brown to provide legal services related to MBE /WBE issues in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding available in the 2012-2013 operation budget of the Law Department.

## Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

## Additional Backup Information

This proposed contract is to retain outside legal counsel to provide secondary legal support to the City of Austin's Small and Minority Business Resources Department (SMBR) on issues related to the City's MBE /WBE program. The City of Austin Law Department provides primary legal support to SMBR. Outside counsel will assist the Law Department to ensure continued legal compliance with federal law, including the United States Supreme Court case of City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co., and subsequent legal decisions issued by the courts. The Law Department will continue to provide primary legal support to SMBR and use outside counsel to assist as needed on specific legal issues related to the MBE /WBE program.

Lori Lightfoot a partner with the law firm of Mayer Brown will provide legal assistance to the City of Austin. She has extensive experience providing legal guidance on MBE /WBE and procurement issues. Ms. Lightfoot previously served as head of the City of Chicago's MBE /WBE program and was responsible for redesigning Chicago's minority-owned and women-owned business enterprise program; streamlining the City's annual \$2 billion procurement process; developing training curricula for internal and external use; and creating and implementing vendor and buyer accountability measures. Further, Ms. Lightfoot has experience advising clients on all facets of the federal

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise rules and regulations, and has provided expert testimony on these matters. Ms. Lightfoot also previously worked with the City's outside counsel Colette Holt on legal issues related to MBE /WBE issues.