

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	68158	Agenda Number	13.
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Meeting Date:	2/16/2017	Department:	Legal
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a legal services agreement with Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal, Hyde & Zech to provide counsel and representation related to labor contract negotiations for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$350,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding for this contract is available in the 2016-17 operating budgets of the Austin Police Department, the Austin Fire Department, and the Emergency Medical Services Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

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

Additional Backup Information

This agreement is to provide legal representation in the City’s negotiations for successor agreements to the three current labor agreements covering employees at the Austin Police Department, Austin Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services Department. The current labor agreements covering these employee groups will all expire September 30, 2017. The labor organizations representing these employee groups have each indicated their intent and willingness to engage in contract negotiations with the City for successor agreements. Management expects these negotiations to begin later this year.

The law firm Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal, Hyde & Zech (principally Lowell Denton, a partner in that firm) has provided legal representation to the City on labor contract negotiations for many years. They are familiar with the past history of the City’s labor agreements, the operations of the police, fire, and EMS departments, and the representatives of the labor organizations for the employees of these departments. The firm and Mr. Denton negotiate labor agreements on behalf of public agencies throughout Texas, and are highly knowledgeable about the content of such agreements in other cities around the state.

The contract amount in this request is intended to cover the firm's services in support of bargaining successor agreements for all three public safety departments. The departments will divide the cost of funding this contract from their operating budgets for the current fiscal year.