



## **CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2018

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** B. Francis, City Manager

**Subject:** Reimbursement of Attorney Fees for Individual Elected Officials

**Background:** At the last Council meeting, the City Council adopted the City Council adopted the policy for reimbursement of attorney fees. There are three Commissioners who are requesting reimbursement of their attorney fees from the SAO investigation (Commissioner Readey - \$807; Commissioner Gold - \$2,550, and Commissioner Nielsen - \$20,000).

There have been discussions on whether or not to allow these payments since they were incurred prior to the policy being adopted. I don't believe that the Council can deny payment based on the timing of the policy. I will consult with the City Attorney for an answer.

Even though the City had no formal policy on reimbursement of attorney fees for individual elected officials, I believe the state law is clear. FS 286.011(7) and FS 111.07 are clear that reimbursement is authorized to public officials.

The other opinion that the City Attorney should give is whether those Commissioners can, or should, recuse themselves from voting on this issue.

**Staff Recommendation:** If the opinion of the City Attorney is in agreement with the above, then the Council should pay reasonable reimbursement fee.

**Suggested Motion:** **I move that we reimburse Commissioners Readey, Gold and Nielsen for their attorney fees for the amounts listed.**

**Alternatives:** Do not pay them

**Fiscal Impact:** \$23,357

**Attachments:** Bills of Commissioners