



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

Meeting Date: November 13, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: B. Francis, City Manager

Subject: Reimbursement of Attorney Fees for Individual Elected Officials

Background: At October 16, 2018 Council meeting, this item was tabled by the City Council. At the October 4, 2018 meeting, 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 has been some discussion on retroactive payment and that it should not be allowed. For the record, Commissioners Readey and Gold requested reimbursement of their fees and handed in itemized receipts prior to my arrival as City Manager; however no payments were made. The decision was to wait for the new City Manager to arrive and have me make that decision. My decision was to bring the matter to the City Council, as I felt this was not a routine reimbursement, such as a travel voucher or meal receipts. Therefore Commissioners Gold and Readey payments would not be considered retroactive.

I have requested a more detailed itemization of Commissioner Nielsen's request from her attorney; however I have had no response as of November 7th. If I receive a response, I will send it out under separate email to the Council.

Staff Recommendation: The staff recommendation is to read the policy guidelines, read the appropriate state statutes (FS 286.011 and FS 111.07), and decide on if the requests of Commissioners Gold, Readey, and Nielsen meet the criteria. The City Attorney will also give an opinion on this matter.

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 or pay some of the request.

Fiscal Impact: \$23,357

Attachments: FS 286.011 and 111.07