



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Administration

DATE: April 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Motion to Approve the Second Amendment to the Attorney-Client Fee Agreement with Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A. - **Administration**

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager recommends approval of the Second Amendment to the Attorney-Client Fee Agreement with Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A., to increase the hourly billing rate for legal services from \$250.00 per hour to \$300.00 per hour, effective October 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

On January 22, 2019, the City entered into an Attorney-Client Fee Agreement with Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A. for the provision of legal services to the City. On July 28, 2022, the City approved the First Amendment to the Agreement, which increased the hourly rate for legal services to \$250.00 per hour.

The proposed increase in the hourly rate for partners and associates to \$300.00 per hour, effective October 1, 2026, is equivalent to 4.6% per year compounded since 2022, while the average annual increase in South Florida has been between 4% to 6%. As of 2025, the average blended (including non-lawyers and paralegals) rate in South Florida is \$305/hour.

The rate will not have an impact on the current fiscal year. All other terms and conditions of the agreement remain in full force and effect.

ANALYSIS:

The proposed rate adjustment reflects current market conditions and the rising cost of providing municipal legal services. The Law Firm has continued to provide professional and specialized legal services to the City, including representation, advisory services, and legal framework development.

Additionally, the amendment sets a clear effective date and affirms that, in the event of any conflict between prior agreements and this amendment, the Second Amendment shall prevail.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Second Amendment