

**CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH STANDARD
AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

This Standard Agreement (“Agreement”) is made as of the _____ day of _____, 2023, by and between the **City of Lake Worth Beach**, a Florida Municipal Corporation, whose mailing address is 7 North Dixie Highway, Lake Worth, Florida 33460 (“City”) and **Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A.**, whose mailing address is 3099 East Commercial Boulevard, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 (“Firm”).

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, the City and Firm agree as follows:

SECTION 1 – SCOPE OF SERVICES AND TERM

1.1 The City engages the Firm to provide legal services as it relates to the foreclosure of identified City code enforcement liens and for other legal services as may arise from time to time. This is a non-exclusive Agreement and the City reserves the right to contract with individuals or firms to provide the same or similar services. Either the City or the Firm may terminate this Agreement at any time upon written notice to the other. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect any rights, obligations, and liabilities of the parties arising out of transactions which occurred prior to termination.

1.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties acknowledge and agree that the City is a political subdivision of the state of Florida, and as such, this Agreement is subject to budgeting and appropriation by the City of funds sufficient to pay the costs associated herewith in any fiscal year of the City. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, in the event that no funds are appropriated or budgeted by the City in any fiscal year to pay the costs associated with the City’s obligations under this Agreement, or in the event the funds budgeted or appropriated are, or are estimated by the City to be, insufficient to pay the costs associated with the City’s obligations hereunder in any fiscal period and the City is not seeking the same or similar services from a competitor of Firm, then the City will notify Firm of such occurrence and either the City or Firm may terminate this Agreement by notifying the other in writing, which notice shall specify a date of termination no earlier than twenty-four (24) hours after giving of such notice. Termination in accordance with the preceding sentence shall be without penalty or expense to the City of any kind whatsoever.

SECTION 2 – REMEDIES

2.1 This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Any and all legal action necessary to enforce the Agreement will be held in Palm Beach County, Florida. No remedy herein conferred upon any party is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, and each and every such remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise.

SECTION 3 – WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL AND ENFORCEMENT COSTS

3.1 WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL. TO ENCOURAGE PROMPT AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF ANY LITIGATION, EACH PARTY HEREBY WAIVES ITS RIGHTS TO A TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LITIGATION RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT.

3.2 If any legal action or other proceeding is brought for the enforcement of the Agreement, or because of an alleged dispute, breach, default, or misrepresentation in connection with any provisions of the Agreement, the parties agree that each party shall be responsible for its own attorney’s fees.

SECTION 4 - AUTHORITY TO PRACTICE

4.1 The Firm hereby represents and warrants that it has and will continue to maintain all licenses and approvals required to conduct its business, and that it will at all times conduct its business activities in a

reputable manner and in accordance with applicable law. Proof of such licenses and approvals shall be submitted to the City upon request.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

5.1 If any term or provision of the Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall, to any extent, be held invalid or unenforceable, to remainder of the Agreement, or the application of such terms or provision, to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected, and every other term and provision of the Agreement shall be deemed valid and enforceable to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION 6 - PUBLIC ENTITY CRIMES, DISCRIMINATION AND SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES

6.1 As provided in Sections 287.132-133, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by entering into the Agreement, Firm certifies that it, its affiliates, suppliers, subcontractors and any other contractors who will perform hereunder, have not been placed on the convicted vendor list maintained by the State of Florida Department of Management Services within the thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the date hereof.

6.2 As provided in Sections 287.134, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time, by entering into the Agreement, Firm certifies that it and its affiliates have not been placed on the discriminatory vendor list maintained by the State of Florida Department of Management Services within the thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the date hereof.

6.3 Firm certifies that it and its subcontractors are not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List and are not engaged in the boycott of Israel. Pursuant to section 287.135, Florida Statutes, the City may immediately terminate this Agreement at its sole option if the Firm or any of its subcontractors are found to have submitted a false certification; or if the Firm or any of its subcontractors, are placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List or is engaged in the boycott of Israel during the term of this Agreement.

6.4 If this Agreement is for one million dollars or more, the Firm certifies that it and its subcontractors are also not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria as identified in Section 287.135, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to Section 287.135, the City may immediately terminate this Agreement at its sole option if the Firm, or any of its subcontractors are found to have submitted a false certification; or if the Firm or any of its subcontractors are placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, or Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or are or have been engaged with business operations in Cuba or Syria during the term of this Agreement.

SECTION 7 - ENTIRETY OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

7.1 The City and Firm agree that this Agreement sets forth the entire contract between the parties, and that there are no promises or understandings other than those stated herein. None of the provisions, terms and conditions contained in this Agreement may be added to, modified, superseded, or otherwise altered, except by written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

SECTION 8 – WAIVER

8.1 Failure of either party to enforce or exercise any right(s) under the Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of either party's right to enforce or exercise said right(s) at any time thereafter.

SECTION 9 – COMPLIANCE

9.1 Each of the parties agrees to perform its obligations under the Agreement in conformance with all laws, regulations and administrative instructions that relate to the parties' performance of the Agreement. In the event that either party becomes aware of a possible violation of law, regulation or administrative instruction that might affect the validity or legality of the services provided under the Agreement, such party shall immediately notify the other party and the parties shall agree on appropriate corrective action. In the event either party becomes aware that any investigation or proceeding has been initiated with respect to any of the services provided hereunder, such party shall immediately notify the other party.

SECTION 10 – EFFECTIVENESS AND PALM BEACH COUNTY IG

10.1 This Agreement shall not become effective until approved by the City Commission. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and will become effective and binding upon the parties as of the effective date at such time as all the signatories hereto have signed a counterpart of this Agreement.

10.2 In accordance with Palm Beach County ordinance number 2011-009, this Agreement and the Agreement may be subject to investigation and/or audit by the Palm Beach County Inspector General. Firm should review Palm Beach County ordinance number 2011-009 in order to be aware of its rights and/or obligations under such ordinance and as applicable.

SECTION 11 – INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

11.1 No relationship of employer or employee is created by this Agreement, it being understood that Firm will act hereunder as an independent contractor and none of the Firm's, officers, directors, employees, independent contractors, representatives or agents performing services for Firm pursuant to this Agreement shall have any claim against the City for compensation of any kind under this Agreement. The relationship between the City and Firm is that of independent contractors, and neither shall be considered a joint venturer, partner, employee, agent, representative or other relationship of the other for any purpose expressly or by implication.

SECTION 12 – COMPENSATION AND INVOICING

12.1 The City shall compensate the Firm on an hourly basis of \$250 per hour for legal services provided on or after December 1, 2023.

12.2 The Firm shall render monthly invoices to the City for services that have been rendered in conformity with this Agreement in the previous month. Invoices will normally be paid within thirty (30) days following the City's receipt of the Firm's invoice.

12.3 All invoices must be submitted to the Finance Department, 7 North Dixie Highway, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460, on a monthly basis for review and approval prior to payment with a copy to the City Attorney, Glen J. Torcivia, 701 Northpoint Pkwy, Ste 209, West Palm Beach, FL 33407. Invoices should be itemized to specifically and concisely identify each task performed and should reflect the actual time spent on each task, using 1/10 of an hour increments. The City does not accept grouping of activities or "block billing." Each task must be billed separately, and each billing entry must be sufficiently descriptive so that it can be determined exactly what professional service was provided and the appropriateness of the related time charge can be assessed. Additionally, the personnel who perform each task must be specified together with their hourly rate. Any other type of billing or timekeeping, which allows compensation for time not actually spent by the Firm, is not permitted by the City.

12.4 The City will reimburse the Firm for any out-of-pocket expenses, including, but not limited to, filing fees, long-distance telephone charges, postage charges, courier fees, outside printing, photocopying, court reporting and transcription fees. Payment for some of these fees is outlined more specifically below.

- (a) In-house photocopying will be paid at the rate of ten cents (.10) per page. (It would be helpful if each invoice specified the number of copies for which reimbursement is sought).
- (b) The City will not pay for local facsimile transmissions.
- (c) Long distance telephone calls must state the number of calls, date, length of call, and per minute cost.
- (d) Any per diem, or meal expenses, which may be reimbursable, must be approved in advance (orally) and will be paid in accordance with the rates and conditions set forth in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- (e) The City will pay for travel, including, but not limited to, attorney's time for such travel at half of the hourly rate plus reimbursement for parking costs and mileage at the current IRS rate.
- (f) For all disbursements, the City requires copies of paid receipts, invoices, or other documentation acceptable to the City of Lake Worth Finance Department. Such documentation must be sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and necessary in the performance of legal services provided.
- (g) The City will not be responsible for the cost of any computerized legal research service that the Firm receives on a fixed or "flat fee" basis. For payment of computerized research on a "per minute" basis, the City requires copies of transaction reports indicating the total time for each research session, the charge per minute, and a brief description of the issues researched. Any extensive research project (research in excess of three hours whether said research is performed during one session or over several sessions or which is likely to exceed \$300) must be discussed with and approved in advance. Since assignments are made to firms which have been selected for their expertise in particular areas of law, the City will not pay for research that is routine in nature. The City will pay only for updating and Shepardizing existing research and/or fact specific research.

SECTION 13 - INSURANCE

13.1 The Firm shall maintain during the term of this Agreement all insurance coverage as required hereunder. Such insurance policy(s) shall be issued by the United States Treasury or insurance carriers approved and authorized to do business in the State of Florida, and who must have a rating of no less than "excellent" by A.M. Best or as mutually agreed upon by the City and the Firm.

<u>Type of Coverage</u>	<u>Amount of Coverage</u>
Professional liability/ Errors and Omissions	\$1,000,000 per occurrence
Commercial General Liability Insurance	\$1,000,000 per occurrence \$2,000,000 aggregate
Automobile Liability (optional /per case basis)	\$1,000,000 combined Single Limit
Workers' Compensation	Must be in accordance with State and Federal Laws (no minimum amount)
Cyber Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence or claim

\$2,000,000 aggregate

Proof of all insurance coverage shall be furnished to the City by way of an endorsement to same or certificate of insurance upon request by the City. The City shall be identified as an “Additional Insured” on general and auto liability. Failure to comply with the foregoing requirements shall not relieve Firm of its liability and obligations under this Agreement.

SECTION 14 – PUBLIC RECORDS

14.1 The Firm shall comply with Florida’s Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and, if determined to be acting on behalf of the City as provided under section 119.011(2), Florida Statutes, specifically agrees to:

- (a) Keep and maintain public records required by the City to perform the service.
- (b) Upon request from the City’s custodian of public records or designee, provide the City with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law.
- (c) Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of this Agreement and following completion of this Agreement if the Firm does not transfer the records to the City.
- (d) Upon completion of this Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the City all public records in possession of the Firm or keep and maintain public records required by the City to perform the service. If the Firm transfers all public records to the City upon completion of the Agreement, the Firm shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Firm keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, the Firm shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the City, upon request from the City’s custodian of public records or designee, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the City.

IF THE FIRM HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE FIRM'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS OR DESIGNEE AT (561) 586-1660, CITYCLERK@LAKEWORTHBEACHFL.GOV, or 7 North Dixie Highway, Lake Worth, FL 33460.

SECTION 15 – E-VERIFY

15.1 Pursuant to Section 448.095(5), Florida Statutes, the Firm shall:

- (a) Register with and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees pursuant to Section 448.095(2), Florida Statutes, and require all subcontractors do the same;

- (b) Secure an affidavit from all subcontractors stating that the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an "unauthorized alien" as defined in Section 448.095(1)(f), Florida Statutes;
- (c) Maintain copies of all subcontractor affidavits for the duration of this Agreement and provide the same to the City upon request;
- (d) Comply fully, and ensure all of its subcontractors comply fully, with Section 448.095, Florida Statutes;
- (e) Be aware that a violation of Section 448.09(1), Florida Statutes (Unauthorized aliens; employment prohibited) shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement;
- (f) Be aware that a violation of Section 448.095(5) by a subcontractor, and not the Firm, shall be grounds for the City to order the Firm immediately terminate the contract with the subcontractor; and
- (g) Be aware that if the City terminates this Agreement under Section 448.095(5)(c), Florida Statutes, the Firm may not be awarded a contract for at least 1 year after the date on which the Agreement is terminated and will be liable for any additional costs incurred by the City as a result of the termination of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Standard Agreement for Legal Services to be executed as of the day and year set forth above.

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

ATTEST:

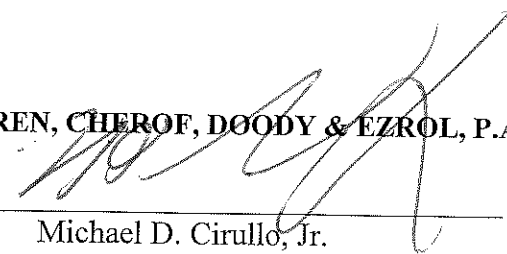
By: _____
Melissa Coyne, City Clerk

By: _____
Betty Resch, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: _____
Glen J. Torcivia, City Attorney

GOREN, CHEROF, DOODY & EZROL, P.A.,

By: 

Michael D. Cirullo, Jr.
City Attorney