



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	November 7, 2024
Originating Department	Executive
Contact Person	Phillip Hill, City Administrator
Title	Resolution 24-1978/Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Professional Services Agreement for 2025-2026 State Legislative Advocacy Services with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations

Legislative History

- First Presentation October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting
 - Second Presentation November 7, 2024 Regular Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-1978/Authorizing Mayor to Sign the Agreement for 2025-2026 State Legislative Advocacy Services with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations
 2. Consultant Contract (Exhibit A to Resolution)
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Executive Summary

The City needs the support of the state as a funding partner for its future transportation and infrastructure projects. A state government affairs advocate provides the City a better opportunity to receive state support for projects that will benefit Lake Forest Park. The City has worked with a state government relations advocate for several years and has been successful in obtaining funding for a variety of projects. The Administration has negotiated a contract with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Relations (GTH) for state advocacy services in 2025 and 2026. Briahna Murray and Shelly Helder with GTH will serve as the consultants. This City has worked with GTH for the past 10-years. The proposed contract annual fee for each year is \$38,940, which is 3% inflation adjustment over the 2023 – 2024 contract.

Background

GTH has been instrumental in the City receiving funding for fish culverts on Lyon Creek, Five Acre Woods acquisition, conceptual design of the grade separated crossing of SR 522, construction funding

for the SR 104 & 40th Place NE roundabout, Lakefront Property acquisition, and has been instrumental in messaging the city’s position and effectuating change in traffic camera legislation and legislation related to one size fits all middle housing legislation. Since the City began contracting with GTH, it has received \$5.54 million in direct appropriations from the state. The positive relationships and the momentum created by GTH effort positions City for a successful 2025 and 2026 session.

The full scope of work is included as Exhibit A of the proposed agreement. Highlights include:

- Lobby to advance items on the city’s 2025-26 legislative agenda, with emphasis on securing funding towards the replacement of culverts in Lake Forest Park, securing funding for improvements to State Route 104 and securing funding for the Lakefront Park project.
- Monitor state legislation that impacts cities and provide comprehensive bill tracking.
- Monitor actions by state agencies, such as Department of Fish and Wildlife, regarding culvert studies and funding.
- Meet with key legislators, including relevant committee chairs, before, during and after the legislative session.
- Schedule appointments for City officials to meet with the City’s legislative delegation and key legislators during visits to Olympia.
- Provide the City with routine written reports during the Legislative Session and daily communication via phone and email as needed.
- Coordinate with the Association of Washington Cities and other stakeholder groups as appropriate to advance the city’s legislative priorities.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

The proposed 2025-2026 contract includes a 3% annual fee increase compared to the 2025-2026 contract. The proposed 2025-2026 budget provides funding for this contract in the Surface Water Utility and Transportation Capital Fund. If the City does not wish to continue the contract, it may terminate the contract with 30 days’ notice.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the Resolution 	Administration will continue to work with consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not adopt the Resolution 	The city runs the risk of missing out on appropriations

Staff Recommendation

Review the contract and resolution