

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-160

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President Salem

Date of Introduction: February 27, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: R, F

Date of Analysis: February 29, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation; fiscal year carry-over authorization; designation of oversight agency

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the Council President’s Designated Contingency to the City Council Professional Services account to provide funding for future hiring of legislative counsel for the City Council. The funds are authorized to carry-over to FY24-25. City Council Staff Services is designated as the oversight agency for the funds.

Background Information: The purpose of the funding is to potentially exercise the Council’s authority under Section 7.01 of the City Charter and Chapter 14 - Office of Legislative Counsel – of the Ordinance Code to hire legislative counsel to provide “independent legal advice, counsel and services” as needed “to advise and assist the council and its committees and members in the achievement of a clear, faithful and coherent expression of legislative policies and to perform such other related duties for the council as the council may by ordinance direct.” The Code provides that “[t]he only limitation on the scope of services provided by the Office of Legislative Counsel is that the services be directly related to matters that can reasonably be expected to be acted upon by the City Council.”

On February 26th the Council’s Personnel Committee approved contracting with the Gray Robinson law firm to perform these services on an as-needed basis and requested the Office of General Counsel to negotiate a proposed contract with the firm. The results of that negotiation will be presented to the Personnel Committee for final approval.

Policy Impact Area: Legislative counsel hiring

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the Council President’s Designated Contingency for future expenditure as needed for legal services.

Analyst: Clements