

Management Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008-316

Meeting date: November 12, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: October 15, 2008

Subject: Technical Amendments to Legal Services Agreements; No Budget Impacts

District(s), Member(s):

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute § 473.19, subd. 3

Staff Prepared/Presented: Mark Thompson - 651.602.1105

Division/Department: Office of General Counsel

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the General Counsel to amend legal services agreements to increase the maximum contract prices as follows:

<u>Law Firm</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Current Price</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>New Price</u>
Dorsey Whitney	Legal Services related to Construction and Engineering Matters Contract No. 02P096	12/31/08	\$210,000	\$150,000	\$350,000
Lockridge Grindal Nauen	Legal Services related to Housing, Land Use, Planning, Parks Open Space Contract No. 01P143	12/31/09	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$400,000

Background

The Office of General Counsel procures outside legal services for various public law matters. These service contracts are typically awarded through a process of competitive negotiation using a formal or informal RFP process. The Contract Price set in each agreement represents a cap on the amount payable; it is a "ceiling," and not a guarantee or entitlement. Regardless of any Contract Price, the actual amount paid under a legal services agreement is based upon: actual services requested and rendered; and, the budget amount(s) approved by the Metropolitan Council.

Rationale

When Contract Prices exceed \$250,000, each subsequent amendment must be approved by the Metropolitan Council. The proposed amendment would allow the General Counsel to pay for essential legal services.

Funding

No funding implications or impacts.

Known Support / Opposition

None.