

AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT**BETWEEN****THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS****AND****ASSOCIATED REPORTERS, INC****RFQ 4801-02278****COURT REPORTER**

THE FOURTH AMENDMENT (the "**Amendment**") is entered into by and between the City of New Orleans, represented by LaToya Cantrell, Mayor (the "**City**"), and Associated Reporters, Inc., represented by Michael A. Bossier, President (the "**Contractor**"). The City and the Contractor are sometimes collectively referred to as the "**Parties.**" The Amendment is effective as of January 1, 2022 (the "**Effective Date**").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2017, the City issued a Request for Qualifications No. 4801-02278 seeking qualified persons to provide professional services including professional reporting services and assistance to the Department of Civil Service, the City Civil Service Commission, and Civil Service hearing examiners (the "**RFQ**");

WHEREAS, the Contractor submitted a proposal dated October 9, 2017, and the City selected the Contractor to perform the professional services described in the RFQ;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018 and effective January 1, 2018, the City and the Contractor entered into a Professional Services Agreement for professional reporting services and assistance to the Department of Civil Service, the City Civil Service Commission, and Civil Service hearing examiners (the "**Agreement**");

WHEREAS, the Agreement provided for an initial term of one (1) year from the effective date of the Agreement with the ability to extend the term for no more than four (4) additional one (1) year periods;

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2019 and effective January 1, 2019, the City and the Contractor entered into the first amendment to the Agreement in order to extend the term, to increase the maximum amount of compensation, and to modify and reaffirm certain terms and provisions ("**Amendment No. 1**");

WHEREAS, on August 24, 2020 and effective January 1, 2020, the City and the Contractor entered into the second amendment to the Agreement in order to extend the term, to increase the maximum amount of compensation, and to modify and reaffirm certain terms and provisions ("**Amendment No. 2**");

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2021, and effective January 1, 2021, the City and the Contractor entered into the third amendment to the Agreement in order to extend the term, to increase the maximum amount of compensation, and to modify and reaffirm certain terms and provisions ("**Amendment No. 3**"); and

WHEREAS, the City and the Contractor, each having the authority to do so, desire to enter this Amendment to extend the Agreement for one (1) year, to amend the maximum amount of compensation due hereunder, and to modify and reaffirm certain terms and provisions, with all other terms remaining in effect.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the City and the Contractor amend the Agreement as follows:

1. **Extension.** In accordance with Article V Section B of the Agreement, the term is extended for an additional one (1) year from the Effective Date through December 31, 2022.
2. **Maximum Amount.** The maximum amount of compensation described in Article IV Section B of the Agreement is increased by \$20,000 to a total amount not to exceed \$120,000.
3. **Living Wages.** Article VIII is deleted in its entirety and replaced as follows:

ARTICLE VIII – LIVING WAGES

- A. **Definitions.** Unless otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, Capitalized terms used but not defined herein, shall have the definition attributed to them in Article VIII, Section 70-802 of the City Code.
- B. **Compliance.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor agrees to abide by City Code Sections 70-801, *et seq.*, which requires, in pertinent part, the following:
 1. Payment of an hourly wage to Covered Employees equal to the amounts defined in the City Code (“**Living Wage**”);
 2. Receipt of at least seven (7) days per year of compensated leave for Covered Employees, as required by Section 70-807 of the City Code; and
 3. Post notice in a prominent place regarding the applicability of the Living Wage Ordinance in every workplace in which Covered Employees are working that is within the Covered Employer's custody and control, as required by Section 70-810 of the City Code.
- C. **Living Wage.** In accordance with the Living Wage Ordinance, Living Wage shall be as follows:
 1. \$11.19 per hour for any work performed on or before December 31, 2021;
 2. \$13.25 per hour for any work performed on or before December 31, 2022;
 3. \$15.00 per hour for any work performed on or before December 31, 2023; and
 4. \$15.00 per hour plus any adjustment provided in subsection D below for any work performed during calendar year 2024 or thereafter.

- D. **Adjusted Living Wage.** In accordance with Section 70-806(2) of the City Code, the Living Wage shall be annually adjusted for inflation, as defined by the Consumer Price Index calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as applied to the South Region, except that in no instance shall the Living Wage be adjusted downward. The first adjustment shall become effective on January 1, 2024 using the Consumer Price Index figures provided for the preceding year, and thereafter on an annual basis.
- E. **Subcontract Requirements.** As required by Section 70-804 of the City Code, the Contractor, beneficiary, or other Covered Employer, prior to entering into a subcontract, shall notify subcontractors in writing of the requirements and applicability of Article VIII – The Living Wage Ordinance (“Article”). City contractors and beneficiaries shall be deemed responsible for violations of this Article by their subcontractors.
- F. **Reporting.** On or before January 31st and upon request by the City, the Contractor shall identify (a) the hourly wage earned by the lowest paid Covered Employee and (b) the number of days of compensated leave received by Covered Employees earning less than 130% of the then-prevailing wage during the current term of the Agreement, and provide the identified information to the following:
- Office of Workforce Development
Living Wage - Compliance
1340 Poydras Street – Suite 1800
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112
- G. **Compliance Monitoring.** Covered Employers under this Agreement are subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement of the Living Wage requirements by the Office of Workforce Development (the “OWD”) and/or the Chief Administrative Office (“CAO”). Covered Employers will cooperate fully with the OWD and/or the CAO and other City employees and agents authorized to assist in the administration and enforcement of the Living Wage requirements. Steps and actions include, but are not limited to, requirements that: (i) the Contractor will cooperate fully with the OWD and the CAO and other City employees and agents authorized to assist in the administration and enforcement of the Living Wage requirements; (ii) the Contractor agrees that the OWD and the CAO and their designees, in the performance of their duties, shall have the right to engage in random inspections of job sites and to have access to the employees of the Contractor, payroll records and employee paychecks; and (ii) that the City may audit such records of the Contractor as he or she reasonably deems necessary to determine compliance with the Living Wage standards.
- H. **Remedies.** If the Contractor fails to comply with the Living Wage requirements during the term of the Agreement, said failure may result in termination of the Agreement or the pursuit of other remedies by the City, including, but not limited to, the penalties and enforcement mechanisms set forth in Section 70-811 of the City Code

4. **Additional Miscellaneous Provisions.** The following terms and conditions are reaffirmed and/or added to the Agreement:

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A. **Factors.** The City will measure the performance of the Contractor according to the following non-exhaustive factors: work performed in compliance with the terms of the Agreement; staff availability; staff training; staff professionalism; staff experience; customer service; communication and accessibility; prompt and effective correction of situations and conditions; timeliness and completeness of submission of requested documentation (such as records, receipts, invoices, insurance certificates, and computer-generated reports).

B. **Failure to Perform.** If the Contractor fails to perform according to the Agreement, the City will notify the Contractor. If there is a continued lack of performance after notification, the City may declare the Contractor in default and may pursue any appropriate remedies available under the Agreement and/or any applicable law. In the event of a notification of default, the City will invoice the defaulting contractor for any increase in costs and other damages sustained by the City. Further, the City will seek full recovery from the defaulting contractor.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

A. **Equal Employment Opportunity.** In all hiring or employment made possible by, or resulting from this Agreement, the Contractor (1) will not be discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, culture, or ancestry, and (2) where applicable, will take affirmative action to ensure that the Contractor's employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, sex, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, culture, or ancestry. This requirement shall apply to, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. All solicitations or advertisements for employees shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, sex, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, culture, or ancestry.

B. **Non-Discrimination.** In the performance of this Agreement, the Contractor will not discriminate on the basis, whether in fact or perception, of a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, physical or mental disability, or AIDS- or HIV-status against (1) any employee of the City working with the Contractor in any of Contractor's operations within Orleans Parish or (2) any person seeking accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, services, or membership in all business, social, or other establishments or organizations operated by the Contractor. The Contractor agrees to comply with and abide by all applicable federal, state and local laws relating to non-discrimination, including, without limitation, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

C. **Incorporation into Subcontracts.** The Contractor will incorporate the terms and conditions of this Article into all subcontracts, by reference or otherwise, and will require all subcontractors to comply with those provisions.

D. The City may terminate this Agreement for cause if the Contractor fails to comply with any obligation in this Article, which failure is a material breach of this Agreement.

4. **Compliance with the City's Hiring Requirements – Ban the Box.** (i) The Contractor agrees to adhere to the City's hiring requirements contained in City Code Sections 2-8(d) and 2-13(a)-(f). Prior to executing this Agreement, Contractor must provide a sworn statement attesting to its compliance with the City's hiring requirements or stating why deviation from the hiring requirements is necessary. (ii) Failure to maintain compliance with the City's hiring requirements throughout the term of the Agreement, or to provide sufficient written reasons for deviation, is a material breach of this Agreement. Upon learning of any such breach, the City will provide the Contractor notice of noncompliance and allow Contractor thirty (30) days to come into compliance. If, after providing notice and thirty (30) days to cure, the Contractor remains noncompliant, the City may move to suspend payments to Contractor, void the Agreement, or take any such legal action permitted by law or this Agreement. (iii) This section will not apply to any agreements excluded from the City's hiring requirements by City Code Sections 2-8(d) or (g). Should a court of competent jurisdiction find any part of this section to be unenforceable, the section should be reformed, if possible, so that it is enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law, or if reformation is not possible, the section should be fully severable and the remaining provisions of the Agreement will remain in full force and effect. (iv) The Contractor will incorporate the terms and conditions of this Article into all subcontracts, by reference or otherwise, and will require all subcontractors to comply with those provisions.

5. **Convicted Felon Statement.** The Contractor swears that it complies with City Code § 2-8(c). No Contractor principal, member, or officer has, within the preceding five years, been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony under state or federal statutes for embezzlement, theft of public funds, bribery, or falsification or destruction of public records.

6. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original copy of this Agreement, but all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.

7. **Cost Recovery.** In accordance with Section 2-8.1 of the Municipal Code entitled "Cost recovery in contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and grants," to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Contractor shall reimburse the City or disgorge anything of value or economic benefit received from the City if the Contractor fails to meet its contractual obligations."

8. **Electronic Signature and Delivery.** The Parties agree that a manually signed copy of this Amendment and any other document(s) attached to this Amendment delivered by facsimile, email or other means of electronic transmission shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Amendment. No legally binding obligation shall be created with respect to a party until such party has delivered or caused to be delivered a manually signed copy of this Amendment.

9. **Non-Solicitation Statement.** The Contractor swears that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for it, to solicit or secure this Amendment. The Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any person, other than a

bona fide employee working for it, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from this Amendment.

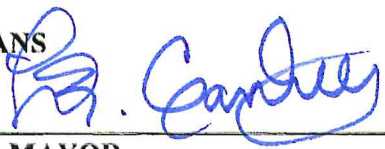
10. **Prior Terms Binding.** Except as otherwise provided by this Amendment, the terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

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[SIGNATURES CONTAINED ON NEXT PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the Contractor, through their duly authorized representatives, execute this Amendment.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

BY: 
LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR

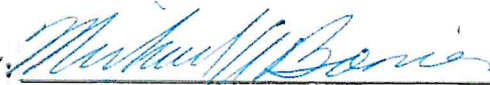
Executed on this 15th of April, 2022.

FORM AND LEGALITY APPROVED:
Law Department

By: 

Printed Name: Tracy Tyle

ASSOCIATED REPORTERS, INC

BY: 
MICHAEL A. BOSSIER, PRESIDENT


FEDERAL TAX I.D.

[END OF AMENDMENT]