

K20-1141

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN

THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

AND

STONE PIGMAN WALTHER WITTMANN L.L.C.

RFP NUMBER 583

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LEGAL SERVICES – HARD ROCK COLLAPSE

THIS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between the City of New Orleans, represented by LaToya Cantrell, Mayor (the "City"), and Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, L.L.C., represented by Scott T. Whittaker, Member (the "Contractor"). The City and the Contractor may sometimes be collectively referred to as the "Parties." The Agreement is effective as of July 1, 2020 (the "Effective Date").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2020, the City issued a request for proposals RFP NUMBER 583 seeking qualified persons to provide professional legal services relating to the collapse of the Hard Rock Hotel site (the "RFP"); and

WHEREAS, the Contractor submitted a proposal dated May 20, 2020, and the City has selected the Contractor to perform the professional services described in the RFP;

NOW THEREFORE, the City and the Contractor agree as follows:

ARTICLE I - THE CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATIONS

A. Services. The Contractor will, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement:

1. Represent, appear and act for the City in connection with any and all claims or rights of reimbursement that the City has, may have, or acquires as a result of the Hard Rock Hotel collapse, against any and all persons and entities who may be legally responsible for damages sustained or costs incurred by the City (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Claims"), including, initiating legal proceedings in any court of competent jurisdiction and representing the City against any and all persons and entities who may assert claims or rights against the City for damages sustained or costs incurred by the persons or entities as a result of, in connection with, or in any way relating to the Hard Rock Hotel collapse or the City's response to the collapse including, without limitation, the currently ongoing proceedings before the City of New Orleans Code Enforcement and Hearings Bureau, entitled "City of New Orleans vs 1031 Canal Development LLC" and all appeals or other proceedings pertaining to orders and judgments rendered therein (collectively, the "Litigation").

2. Determine the potential amount owed to the City and, in consultation with the City Attorney, to make claims for such amounts;

3. Collect such amounts on behalf of the City;

4. Determine the City's potential exposure, in consultation with the City Attorney, for all claims asserted against the City;

5. Provide periodic updates to the City Attorney regarding existence as well as the potential owed amounts, and progress on collections;
6. Provide periodic updates to the City Attorney regarding existence as well as the potential exposure of the City, and progress on defense of the claims;
7. Provide other professional services required by the Law Department and within the scope of this engagement.
8. Perform all other services and obligations as set forth in any the following documents that are incorporated fully into this Agreement: the RFP; the Contractor's proposal dated May 20, 2020.
9. Submit complete and accurate invoices, maintain records, submit to audits and inspections upon reasonable notice, maintain insurance, and perform all other obligations of the Contractor as set forth in this Agreement;
10. Promptly correct any errors or omissions and any work deemed unsatisfactory or unacceptable by the City, at no additional compensation;
11. Monitor, supervise, and otherwise control and be solely responsible for all persons performing work on its behalf;
12. Perform all requirements set forth in La. R.S. 38:2192, including without limitation the payment of any associated costs, and submit a copy of any recorded documents to the City within 30 days after the approval of the associated plan change or amendment; and
13. Cooperate with the City and any person performing work for the City.

The City's officers and employees are not authorized to request or instruct the Contractor to perform any work beyond the scope or duration of this Agreement in the absence of an executed amendment to this Agreement.

B. Standards. The Contractor, and any person performing legal services on its behalf, will perform all work under this Agreement in accordance with the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct.

C. Compliance with Laws. The Contractor, and any person performing work on its behalf, will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

D. Invoices.

1. Prior to submission of invoices as established below in Article I(D)(2)-(5), Contractor must first submit invoices to the City Attorney for review and approval. Only after approval of an invoice, may contractor submit its invoices as provided below.

2. The Contractor must submit invoices monthly (unless agreed otherwise between the Parties to this Agreement) to the City electronically, via its supplier portal, for goods or services provided under this Agreement no later than 10 calendar days following the end of the period covered by the invoice. Untimely invoices may result in delayed payment for which the City is not liable. At a minimum, each invoice must include the following information:

- a. Name of Contractor;
- b. Date of Invoice;

- c. Invoice Number;
 - d. Contract or BRASS Number issued by the City (*i.e.*, K#);
 - e. Name of the City Department to be invoiced (*i.e.*, City Civil Service);
 - f. Description of the Services completed; and
3. Invoices will be processed in accordance with Article III Section B of the Agreement.
4. All invoices must be signed by an authorized representative of the Contractor under penalty of perjury attesting to the validity and accuracy of the invoice.
5. The City may require changes to the form of the invoice and may require additional supporting documentation to be submitted with invoices.

E. Records and Reporting.

1. The Contractor will maintain all books, documents, papers, accounting records, invoices, materials records, payrolls, work papers, personnel records, and other evidence pertaining to the performance of services under this Agreement, including, without limitation, of costs incurred through the later of 3 years from: (a) the completion of this Agreement (including any renewal or extension periods); or (b) from the resolution of any dispute relating to the Agreement. If this Agreement is terminated for any reason, the Contractor will deliver to the City all files and records of work compiled through the date of termination.

F. Audit and Inspection.

1. The Contractor will submit to any City audit, inspection, and review and, at the City's request, will make available all documents relating or pertaining to work performed (or not performed) or expenses incurred pursuant to this Agreement maintained by or under the control of the Contractor, its employees, agents, assigns, successors and subcontractors during normal business hours at the Contractor's office or place of business in Louisiana. If no such location is available, the Contractor will make the documents available at a time and location that is convenient for the City.

2. The Contractor will abide by all provisions of City Code § 2-1120, including but not limited to City Code § 2-1120(12), which requires the Contractor to provide the Office of Inspector General with documents and information relating or pertaining to work performed (or not performed) or expenses incurred pursuant to this Agreement as requested, subject to attorney-client privilege. Failure to comply with such requests shall constitute a material breach of the contract. The Contractor agrees that it is subject to the jurisdiction of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court for purposes of challenging a subpoena.

G. Insurance.

Except as otherwise noted, at all times during this Agreement or the performance of work required by this Agreement, the Contractor will maintain the following insurance in full force and effect for the duration of the work under this Agreement:

Minimum Requirements:

Workers' Compensation & Employers Liability Insurance in compliance with the applicable Workers' Compensation Act(s). Statutory and Employers Liability Insurance, with limits of not less than \$500,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease.

Commercial General Liability Insurance including contractual liability insurance, products and completed operations, personal & advertising injury, bodily injury, property damage, abuse and molestation and any other type of liability for which this Agreement applies with limits of liability of not less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence / \$4,000,000 policy aggregate.

Automobile Liability Insurance with limits of liability of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage. Insurance shall include all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

Umbrella Liability Insurance with limits excess of Employers' Liability, Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000.

Cyber Liability Insurance to the Contractors profession, with limits of liability of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence or claim / \$2,000,000 policy aggregate. Coverage shall be sufficiently broad to respond to the duties and obligations of the Contractor and shall include, but not limited to claims involving Network Interruption, Security and Privacy, extortion and release of private information.

Professional (Errors & Omission) Liability Insurance appropriate to the Contractors profession with limits of liability of not less than \$3,000,000 per occurrence or claim / \$3,000,000 policy aggregate. Coverage shall be sufficiently broad to respond to the duties and obligations as is undertaken by Contractor in this agreement.

The policy shall be amended to include independent contractors and volunteers providing professional services on behalf of or at the direction of the Contractor. Policy shall be kept in force and uninterrupted for a period of three (3) years beyond policy expiration. If coverage is discontinued for any reason during this three (3) year term, Contractor must procure and evidence full extended reporting period (ERP) coverage.

Other Insurance Provisions: The insurance policies are to contain, or be endorsed, to contain, the following provisions:

Additional Insured Status: The Contractor and all Subcontractors (where applicable) will provide, and maintain current, a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of New Orleans, its departments, political subdivisions, officers, officials, employees, and volunteers are to be covered as "Additional Insureds" on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of the performance of this agreement, General liability insurance coverage can be provided in the form of an endorsement to the Contractors insurance (at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or both CG 20 10 and CG 20 37 forms if later revisions used).

Contractor shall require and verify that all Subcontractors maintain insurance and coverage limits meeting all of the requirements stated herein. The Certificate of Insurance, as evidence of all required coverage, should name the City of New Orleans Risk Manager as Certificate Holder and be delivered via U.S. Mail to 1300 Perdido Street, 9E06 – City Hall, New Orleans LA 70112.

The Additional Insured box shall be marked “Y” or Commercial General Liability coverage. The Subrogation Waiver Box must be marked “Y” for Workers Compensation/Employers Liability and Property.

Primary Coverage: For any claims related to this Agreement, the Contractor's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the City, its departments, political subdivisions, officers, officials, employees, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the City shall be non-contributing to the Contractor's coverage.

Claims Made Policies: If applicable, the retroactive date must be shown and must be before the date of the Agreement or the beginning of work. If the coverage is canceled or non-renewed, and not replaced with another claims-made policy, Contractor must purchase “extended reporting” coverage for minimum of 3 years after the termination of this agreement.

Waiver of Subrogation: The Contractor and its insurers agree to waive any right of subrogation which any insurer may acquire against the City by virtue of the payment of any loss under insurance required by this agreement.

Notice of Cancellation: Each insurance policy required above shall provide that coverage shall not be canceled, expire or altered except without prior notice to the City of no less than 30 days.

Acceptability of Insurers: Insurance is to be placed with insurers licensed and authorized to do business in the State of Louisiana with a current A.M. Best's rating of no less than A:VII, unless otherwise acceptable to the City.

Notice: The Contractor will provide the City's Risk Manager (at City of New Orleans Attn: Risk Manager, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 9E06, New Orleans, LA 70112- Ref. : CEA) within 10 calendar days of the Effective Date and at any other time at the City's request the following documents:

Copies of all policies of insurance, including all policies, forms, and endorsements:

Miscellaneous: Without notice from the City, the Contractor will:

Replenish any policy aggregate limit that is impaired before commencement of any work or continuation of any work under this Agreement;

Substitute insurance coverage acceptable to the City within 30 calendar days if any insurance company providing any insurance with respect to this Agreement is declared bankrupt, becomes

insolvent, loses the right to do business in Louisiana, or ceases to meet the requirements of this Agreement.

H. Indemnity.

1. In general. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor will indemnify the City from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, and judgments of sums of money accruing against the City: for loss of life or injury or damage to persons or property arising from any negligent act, error or omission of the Contractor or its members or employees in connection with the discharge or performance of any work under this Agreement.

2. Limitation. The Contractor's indemnity does not extend to (a) any loss arising from the conduct of the City or its employees, to the extent that the loss is caused by the conduct of the City or its employees, or (b) any claim, demand, suit or judgment where no negligence or malpractice by Contractor or its members or employees is proven.

3. Independent Duty. The Contractor's indemnity obligation under subpart 1 above includes the obligation to reimburse the City for its costs incurred in the defense of any claim that actually falls within this indemnity.

4. Expenses. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Contractor shall bear the expenses including, but not limited to, the City's reasonable attorney fees and expenses, incurred by the City in enforcing this indemnity, provided that the City is the prevailing party in any enforcement action.

ARTICLE II - REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

A. The Contractor represents and warrants to the City that:

1. The Contractor, through its duly authorized representative, has the full power and authority to enter into and execute this Agreement;

2. The Contractor has the requisite expertise, qualifications, staff, materials, equipment, licenses, permits, consents, registrations, and certifications in place and available for the performance of all work required under this Agreement;

3. The Contractor is not under any obligation to any other person that constitutes a conflict of interest pursuant to the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct with respect to the services to be rendered pursuant to this Agreement;

4. The Contractor has no knowledge of any facts that could prevent, limit, or impair the performance of this Agreement, except as otherwise disclosed to the City and incorporated into this Agreement;

5. The Contractor is not knowingly in breach of any federal, state, or local statute or regulation applicable to the Contractor or its operations; and

6. The Contractor has read and fully understands this Agreement and is executing this Agreement willingly and voluntarily.

7. All of the representations and warranties in this Article and elsewhere in this Agreement are true and correct as of the date of this Agreement by the Contractor and the execution of this Agreement by the Contractor's representative constitutes a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, by the Contractor as to the truth of the foregoing representations and warranties.

B. **Convicted Felon Statement.** The Contractor complies with City Code § 2-8(c) and no principal, member, or officer of the Contractor has, within the preceding 5 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.

C. **Non-Solicitation Statement.** The Contractor has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for it, to solicit or secure this Agreement. 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 Agreement.

D. **Conflict Of Interest.** The Contractor expressly acknowledges that this Agreement is for the performance of professional legal services on behalf of the Client, the City. Therefore, Contractor further acknowledges that it is bound by the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. Contractor represents that it has performed a conflicts check and affirms that no actual or perceived conflicts exist. Contractor acknowledges that it has an ongoing obligation to identify potential conflicts and to act in accordance with the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct, which require Contractor to decline or obtain appropriate waivers with respect to representation which presents a conflict. Any request for a conflict waiver must be presented to the City Attorney in writing in accordance with the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. Nevertheless, the City Attorney is under no obligation to approve conflict waiver requests.

E. **Employee Verification.** The Contractor swears that (i) it is registered and participates in a status verification system to verify that all employees in the State of Louisiana are legal citizens of the United States or are legal aliens; (ii) it shall continue, during the term of this Agreement, to utilize a status verification system to verify the legal status of all new employees in the State of Louisiana; and (iii) it shall require all subcontractors to submit to the Contractor a sworn affidavit verifying compliance with items (i) and (ii) above. Any violation of the provisions of this paragraph may subject this Agreement to termination, and may further result in the Contractor being ineligible for any public contract for a period of 3 years from the date the violation is discovered. The Contractor will provide to the City a sworn affidavit attesting to the above provisions if requested by the City. The City may terminate this Agreement for cause if the Contractor fails to provide the requested affidavit or violates any provision of this paragraph.

F. The Contractor acknowledges that the City is relying on these representations and warranties and Contractor's expertise, skill, and knowledge and that the Contractor's obligations and liabilities will not be diminished by reason of any approval by the City.

ARTICLE III - THE CITY'S OBLIGATIONS

A. **Administration.** The City will:

1. Administer this Agreement through the Law Department;
2. Provide the Contractor documents reasonably requested by the Contractor for the Contractor's performance of any work required under this Agreement;
3. Provide access to Department personnel to discuss the required services during normal working hours, as requested by the Contractor; and

A. **Payment.** The City will make payments to the Contractor at the rate of compensation established in this Agreement based upon the Contractor's certified invoices, except:

1. The City's obligation to pay is contingent upon the Contractor's: (a) submission of a complete and accurate invoice; and (b) satisfactory performance of the services and conditions required by this Agreement;

2. The City, in its discretion, may withhold payment of any disputed amounts, and no interest shall accrue on any amount withheld pending the resolution of the dispute;

3. The City may set-off any amounts due to the Contractor with any amounts owed to the City by the Contractor pursuant this Agreement; and

4. All compensation owed to the Contractor under this Agreement is contingent upon the appropriation and allocation of funds for work under this Agreement by the City.

5. The City is not obligated, under any circumstances, to pay for any work performed or costs incurred by the Contractor that: exceed the maximum aggregate amount payable established by this Agreement; are beyond the scope or duration of this Agreement; arise from or relate to any unauthorized change order within the scope of the Agreement; are for services performed on days on which services were suspended of which Contractor received timely notice, due to circumstances beyond the control of the City, and no work has taken place; arise from or relate to the correction of errors or omissions of the Contractor or its subcontractors; or the City is not expressly obligated to pay under this Agreement.

6. Unless otherwise agreed by the City, payment terms are NET 30 days upon providing that goods and/or services described under this Agreement have been delivered, installed (if required), rendered, and/or accepted and upon receipt by the City of properly submitted invoice via the City's supplier portal.

7. If this Agreement is terminated for any reason, the City will pay the Contractor only for the work requested by the City and satisfactorily performed by the Contractor through the date of termination, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV - COMPENSATION

A. **Rate of Compensation.**

1. The City will pay the Contractor in accordance with the following rates:

Attorneys - \$267.50 per hour

Paralegals - \$97.40 per hour

These rates are subject to increase as of January 1 of each calendar year, but any annual increase will not exceed 2.5%.

2. The City will also pay for disbursements pursuant to the Client Disbursement Charge schedule attached to this Agreement.

3. This Agreement does not guarantee any amount of work or compensation except as specifically authorized by the City in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

4. Except as otherwise provided herein, the stated compensation is inclusive, and includes no additional amounts for, the Contractor's costs, including without limitation all expenses relating to overhead, administration, subcontractors, employees, bid preparation, bonds, scheduling, invoicing, insurance, record retention, reporting, inspections, audits, the correction of errors and omissions, or minor changes within the scope of this Agreement. The City will not consider or be obligated to pay or reimburse the Contractor any other charges or fees and the Contractor will not be entitled to any additional compensation or reimbursement, except otherwise specifically provided in the Agreement.

B. **Maximum Amount.** The maximum aggregate amount payable by the City under this Agreement is \$250,000.00. If the hourly fees and disbursements provided above exceed the maximum amount set forth in the preceding sentence, then the City may, in its discretion, agree to increase such maximum amount, and if the City declines to increase such maximum amount, the Contractor may terminate this Agreement and resign from representing the City in this matter (subject, if applicable, to court approval of a motion to withdraw or any other applicable limitations imposed by law).

ARTICLE V - DURATION AND TERMINATION

A. **Initial Term.** The term of this agreement shall be for 1 year, beginning the Effective Date, provided there is an encumbrance of funds by the requesting department made from the funds allotted by the Chief Administrative Officer, which are derived from appropriations made by the City Council. This Agreement shall automatically terminate with respect to any period of time for which funds are not so encumbered.

B. **Extension.** This Agreement may be extended at the option of the City, provided that funds are allocated by the City Council and the extension of the Agreement facilitates the continuity of services provided herein. This Agreement may be extended by the City for 4 additional one-year terms.

C. **Termination for Convenience.** The City may terminate this Agreement at any time during the term of the Agreement by giving the Contractor written notice of the termination at least 30 calendar days before the intended date of termination.

D. **Termination for Non-Appropriation.** This Agreement will terminate immediately in the event of non-appropriation of funds sufficient to maintain this Agreement without the requirement of notice and the City will not be liable for any amounts beyond the funds appropriated and encumbered for this Agreement.

E. **Termination by the Contractor.** The Contractor shall have the right to resign from representing the City in this matter (subject, if applicable, to court approval of a motion to withdraw or any other applicable limitations imposed by law) by giving the City written notice of the termination at least 30 calendar days before the intended date of termination.

F. **Termination for Cause.** The City may terminate this Agreement immediately for cause by sending written notice to the Contractor. "Cause" includes without limitation any failure to perform any obligation or abide by any condition of this Agreement or the failure of any representation or warranty in this Agreement, including without limitation any failure to comply with the requirements of the City's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program and any failure to

comply with any provision of City Code § 2-1120 or requests of the Office of Inspector General. If a termination for cause is subsequently challenged in a court of law and the challenging party prevails, the termination will be deemed to be a termination for convenience effective 30 days from the date of the original written notice of termination for cause was sent to the challenging party; no further notice will be required.

ARTICLE VII - 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.

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. **Current Living Wage.** In accordance with the Living Wage Ordinance, the current Living Wage per the Consumer Price Index data is equal to \$11.19. The Contractor shall be responsible for confirming the Current Living Wage by visiting <https://www.nola.gov/economic-development/workforce-development/>.

D. **Adjusted Living Wage.** In accordance with Section 70-806(2) of the City Code, the Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the Living Wage may be increased during the term of the Agreement. Any City contract or City financial assistance agreement (a) extending from one calendar year into the next or (b) with a term of longer than one year, inclusive of any renewal terms or extensions, shall require the Covered Employer to pay the Covered Employee an Adjusted Living Wage, accounting for the annual Consumer Price Index adjustment. The indexing

adjustment shall occur each year on July 1st using the Consumer Price Index figures provided for the calendar year ended December 31st of 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.

ARTICLE IX - DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (“DBE”) PROGRAM

A. In General. The Contractor agrees to abide by the City Code sections 70-496, *et seq.*, to use its best efforts to carry out all applicable requirements of the City’s DBE Program for the administration of this Agreement, as set forth in the City Code and any applicable rules adopted thereunder. The City’s Office of Supplier Diversity (“OSD”) oversees the DBE Program and assigns a DBE Compliance Officer (“DBECO”) to ensure compliance.

B. Monitoring. To ensure compliance with DBE requirements during the term of this Agreement, the DBECO will monitor the Contractor's use of DBE subcontractors/suppliers ("DBE Entities") through the following actions:

1. Job site visits;
2. Electronic payment tracking via the Contract Compliance Monitoring System or other means as approved by the OSD;
3. Routine audits of contract payments to all subcontractors;
4. Reviewing of records and reports; and/or
5. Interviews of selected personnel.

The DBECO may schedule inspections and on-site visits with or without prior notice to the Contractor or DBE Entities.

C. Cooperation. The Contractor shall:

1. Designate an individual as the "DBE Liaison" who will monitor the Contractor's DBE participation as well as document and maintain records of "Good Faith Efforts" with DBE Entities.
2. Execute written contracts with DBE Entities that meet the applicable DBE goals.
 - a. The Contractor shall provide the DBECO with copies of said contracts within 30 days from the date this Agreement is fully executed between the City and the Contractor.
 - b. The Contractor shall agree to promptly pay subcontractors, including DBE Entities, in accordance with law.
3. Establish and maintain the following records for review upon request by the OSD:
 - a. Copies of written contracts with DBE Entities and purchase orders;
 - b. Documentation of payments and other transactions with DBE Entities;
 - c. Appropriate explanations of any changes or replacements of DBE Entities, which may include a record of "Post-Award Good Faith Efforts" for each certified firm that the Contractor does not use in accordance with the approved DBE participation submission;
 - d. Any other records required by the OSD.

The Contractor is required to maintain such records for 3 years after completion or closeout of this Agreement. Such records are necessary to determine compliance with their DBE obligations.

4. Post monthly payments and submit regular reports to the DBECO as required via the online "Contract Compliance Monitoring System" or other means approved by the OSD.
 - a. The Contractor shall submit the initial report outlining DBE participation within 30 days from the date of notice to proceed (or equivalent document) issued by the City to the Contractor. Thereafter, "DBE Utilization" reports

shall be due on or before the fifteenth day of each month until all DBE subcontracting work is completed.

- b. Reports are required even when no activity has occurred in a monthly period.
 - c. If the established percentage is not being met, the monthly report shall include a narrative description of the progress being made in DBE participation.
 - d. The Contractor may also be required to attach or upload copies of canceled checks or bank statements that identify payer, payee and amount of transfer to verify payment information as indicated on the form.
5. Conform to the established percentage as approved by the OSD.
- a. The total dollar amount of the Agreement shall include approved change orders and amendments. For a requirements contract, the total dollar amount shall be based in actual quantities ordered.
 - b. No changes to the established percentage and DBE Entities submitted on DBE Compliance Form-1 shall be allowed without approval by the OSD.
 - c. The City will not adjust the contract for any increase in cost due to replacement of DBE Entities.

D. Post-Award Modification. The OSD may grant a post-award modification request if:

- a. for a reason beyond the Contractor's control, the Contractor is unable to use the certified DBE entity submitted on DBE Compliance Form-1 to perform the specified work. The Contractor must notify the OSD of the intent for removal and substitution of a certified DBE immediately upon determination of that the DBE submitted on Compliance Form -1 is unable to perform the specified work. In such case, the Contractor shall use and document "Good Faith Efforts" to find a similarly qualified and certified DBE entity to perform such specified work. The same criteria used for establishing "Good Faith Efforts" in maximizing the participation of DBE Entities prior to awarding the Agreement will also apply to the substitution of DBE subcontractors during the performance of the Agreement; or
- b. the Contractor reasonably believes that, due to a change of scope, execution of the work in accordance with the directions from the City is unlikely to meet the established percentage or terms. In such case, the Contractor shall use and document "Good Faith Efforts" to achieve a reasonable amount of DBE participation on the remaining work on the Agreement.

ARTICLE X - 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, color, religion, sex, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, 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, color, religion, sex, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, 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, color, religion, sex, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, 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. Termination for Breach. 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.

ARTICLE XI - INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

A. Independent Contractor Status. The Contractor is an independent contractor and shall not be deemed an employee, servant, agent, partner, or joint venture of the City and will not hold itself or any of its employees, subcontractors or agents to be an employee, partner, or agent of the City.

B. Exclusion of Worker's Compensation Coverage. The City will not be liable to the Contractor, as an independent contractor as defined in La. R.S. 23:1021(6), for any benefits or coverage as provided by the Workmen's Compensation Law of the State of Louisiana. Under the provisions of La. R.S. 23:1034, any person employed by the Contractor will not be considered an employee of the City for the purpose of Worker's Compensation coverage.

C. Exclusion of Unemployment Compensation Coverage. The Contractor, as an independent contractor, is being hired by the City under this Agreement for hire and defined in La. R.S. 23:1472(12)(E) and neither the Contractor nor anyone employed by it will be considered an employee of the City for the purpose of unemployment compensation coverage, which coverage same being hereby expressly waived and excluded by the parties, because: (a) the Contractor has been and will be free from any control or direction by the City over the performance of the services covered by this contract; (b) the services to be performed by the Contractor are outside the normal course and scope of the City's usual business; and (c) the Contractor has been independently

engaged in performing the services required under this Agreement prior to the date of this Agreement.

D. Waiver of Benefits. The Contractor, as an independent contractor, will not receive from the City any sick and annual leave benefits, medical insurance, life insurance, paid vacations, paid holidays, sick leave, pension, or Social Security for any services rendered to the City under this Agreement.

ARTICLE XII - NOTICE

A. In General. Except for any routine communication, any notice, demand, communication, or request required or permitted under this Agreement will be given in writing and delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested as follows:

1. To the City:

City Attorney
City of New Orleans
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 5E03
New Orleans, LA 70112

2. To the Contractor:

Scott T. Whittaker
Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C.
909 Poydras Street, Suite 3150
New Orleans, LA 70112

B. Effectiveness. Notices are effective when received, except any notice that is not received due to the intended recipient's refusal or avoidance of delivery is deemed received as of the date of the first attempted delivery.

C. Notification of Change. Each party is responsible for notifying the other in writing that references this Agreement of any changes in its address(es) set forth above.

ARTICLE XIII - ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

A. Amendment. No amendment of or modification to this Agreement shall be valid unless and until executed in writing by the duly authorized representatives of both parties to this Agreement.

B. Assignment. This Agreement and any part of the Contractor's interest in it are not assignable or transferable without the City's prior written consent.

C. Choice of Law. This Agreement will be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana without regard to its conflict of laws provisions.

D. Compliance with City's Hiring Requirements – Ban the Box.

1. The Contractor agrees to adhere to the City's hiring requirements contained in City Code Section 2-8(d) and 2-13(a)-(f). Prior to executing this Agreement, the Contractor must provide a sworn statement attesting to its compliance with the City's hiring requirements or stating why deviation from the hiring requirement is necessary.

2. Failure to maintain compliance with the City's hiring requirements through 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 the 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 the Contractor, void the Agreement, or take any such legal action permitted by law or this Agreement.
3. 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 remaining provisions of the Agreement will remain in full force and effect.
4. The Contractor will incorporate the terms and conditions of this Article into all subcontracts, by reference or otherwise, and will require all sub-contractors to comply with those provisions.

E. Conflicting Employment. To ensure that the Contractor's efforts do not conflict with the City's interests, and in recognition of the Contractor's obligations to the City, the Contractor will comply with the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct with respect to any offer of other employment such employment would give rise to a conflict of interest thereunder. Any request for a conflict waiver must be presented to the City Attorney in writing in accordance with the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. Nevertheless, the City Attorney is under no obligation to approve conflict waiver requests.

F. Construction of Agreement. Neither party will be deemed to have drafted this Agreement. This Agreement has been reviewed by all parties and shall be construed and interpreted according to the ordinary meaning of the words used so as to fairly accomplish the purposes and intentions of all parties. No term of this Agreement shall be construed or resolved in favor of or against the City or the Contractor on the basis of which party drafted the uncertain or ambiguous language. The headings and captions of this Agreement are provided for convenience only and are not intended to have effect in the construction or interpretation of this Agreement. Where appropriate, the singular includes the plural and neutral words and words of any gender shall include the neutral and other gender.

G. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including all incorporated documents, constitutes the final and complete agreement and understanding between the parties. All prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings, whether oral or written, are superseded by this Agreement and are without effect to vary or alter any terms or conditions of this Agreement.

H. Jurisdiction. The Contractor consents and yields to the jurisdiction of the State Civil Courts of the Parish of Orleans and formally waives any pleas or exceptions of jurisdiction on account of the residence of the Contractor.

I. Limitations of the City's Obligations. The City has no obligations not explicitly set forth in this Agreement or any incorporated documents or expressly imposed by law.

J. No Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is entered into for the exclusive benefit

of the parties and the parties expressly disclaim any intent to benefit anyone not a party to this Agreement.

K. **Non-Exclusivity.** This Agreement is non-exclusive and the Contractor may provide services to other clients, subject to the City's approval of any potential conflicts with the performance of this Agreement and the City may engage the services of others for the provision of some or all of the work to be performed under this Agreement.

L. **Non-Waiver.** The failure of either party to insist upon strict compliance with any provision of this Agreement, to enforce any right or to seek any remedy upon discovery of any default or breach of the other party at such time as the initial discovery of the existence of such noncompliance, right, default or breach shall not affect or constitute a waiver of either party's right to insist upon such compliance, exercise such right or seek such remedy with respect to that default or breach or any prior contemporaneous or subsequent default or breach.

M. **Ownership Interest Disclosure.** The Contractor will provide a sworn affidavit listing all natural or artificial persons with an ownership interest in the Contractor and stating that no other person holds an ownership interest in the Contractor via a counter letter. For the purposes of this provision, an "ownership interest" shall not be deemed to include ownership of stock in a publicly traded corporation or ownership of an interest in a mutual fund or trust that holds an interest in a publicly traded corporation. If the Contractor fails to submit the required affidavits, the City may, after 30 days' written notice to the Contractor, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payments until such the required affidavits are submitted.

N. **Prohibition of Financial Interest in Agreement.** No elected official or employee of the City shall have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement. For purposes of this provision, a financial interest held by the spouse, child, or parent of any elected official or employee of the City shall be deemed to be a financial interest of such elected official or employee of the City. Any willful violation of this provision, with the expressed or implied knowledge of Contractor, shall render this Agreement voidable by the City and shall entitle the City to recover, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to the City, all monies paid by the City to Contractor pursuant to this Agreement without regard to Contractor's otherwise satisfactory performance of the Agreement.

O. **Prohibition on Political Activity.** None of the funds, materials, property, or services provided directly or indirectly under the terms of this Agreement shall be used in the performance of this Agreement for any partisan political activity, or to further the election or defeat of any candidate for public office. For the avoidance of doubt, the preceding sentence shall not restrict the Contractor from engaging in political activity or supporting any candidate for public office, so long as such activities are not conducted as part of Contractor's work under this Agreement.

P. **Remedies Cumulative.** No remedy set forth in the Agreement or otherwise conferred upon or reserved to any party shall be considered exclusive of any other remedy available to a party. Rather, each remedy shall be deemed distinct, separate and cumulative and each may be exercised from time to time as often as the occasion may arise or as may be deemed expedient.

Q. **Severability.** Should a court of competent jurisdiction find any provision of this Agreement to be unenforceable as written, the unenforceable provision should be reformed, if possible, so that it is enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law or, if reformation is not possible, the unenforceable provision shall be fully severable and the remaining provisions of the

Agreement remain in full force and effect and shall be construed and enforced as if the unenforceable provision was never a part the Agreement.

R. **Subcontractor Reporting.** The Contractor will provide a list of all natural or artificial persons who are retained by the Contractor at the time of the Agreement's execution and who are expected to perform work as subcontractors in connection with the Contractor's work for the City under this Agreement. For any subcontractor proposed to be retained by the Contractor to perform work on the Agreement with the City, the Contractor must provide notice to the City within 30 days of retaining that subcontractor. If the Contractor fails to submit the required lists and notices, the City may, after thirty 30 days' written notice to the Contractor, take any action it deems necessary, including, without limitation, causing the suspension of any payments, until the required lists and notices are submitted.

S. **Survival of Certain Provisions.** All representations and warranties and all obligations concerning record retention, inspections, audits, ownership, indemnification, payment, remedies, jurisdiction, and choice of law shall survive the expiration, suspension, or termination of this Agreement and continue in full force and effect.

T. **Terms Binding.** The terms and conditions of this Agreement are binding on any heirs, successors, transferees, and assigns.

ARTICLE XIV – 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.

ARTICLE XV - ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND DELIVERY

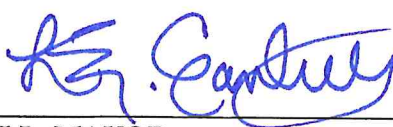
The Parties agree that a manually signed copy of this Agreement and any other document(s) attached to this Agreement delivered by email shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement. No legally binding obligation shall be created with respect to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

[SIGNATURES CONTAINED ON NEXT PAGE]

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

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

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

BY: 
LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR

Executed on this 9th of DECEMBER, 2020

FORM AND LEGALITY APPROVED:

Law Department

By: 

Printed Name: Tracy Tyler

STONE PIGMAN WALTHER WITTMANN L.L.C.

BY: 
SCOTT T. WHITTAKER, MEMBER


FEDERAL TAX I.D.

CLIENT DISBURSEMENT CHARGES

We will invoice the City for various expenses we incur in the course of providing legal services, including both third-party expenses (such as filing fees, court reporters and travel) and the internal expenses described below. Third-party expenses will be added to our bills with no markup for handling, but the City may be asked to pay directly for certain larger expenses (such as expert witness fees) that are invoiced by outside parties.

Internal charges will be billed in the following way:

1. **Mail/Messengers.** The City will be charged the actual cost of U.S. Mail in excess of \$1.00. The City will also be charged the exact cost of outside messengers, air courier, and other express delivery services. Our overnight courier charges are based on negotiated volume discounts.
2. **Overtime.** The City will be charged for staff overtime, meals and transportation only when (a) the City specifically requests after-hours effort or (b) the nature of the work necessitates overtime, and such work could not have been done during normal work hours.
3. **Photocopying.** The City will be charged 10¢ per page for photocopying for black and white photocopying and 23¢ for color copying.
4. **Computer Research.** The City will be charged for computer-assisted research at the firm's cost. The firm has negotiated an hourly rate for the use of LexisNexis. The time that the LexisNexis service is used for a client is billed to the client at that hourly rate.
5. **Long-Distance Telephone.** Our long distance telephone calls are monitored by equipment that records the destination and length of each call and assigns a charge to that call. Our long distance charge rates are based on negotiated volume discounts plus an amount sufficient to cover related overhead costs. There are no disbursement charges for local calls.
6. **Facsimile.** The City will be charged \$1.00 per page for all outgoing long distance faxes and 50¢ per page for all outgoing local faxes. The City will be charged 50¢ per page for all incoming faxes sent to the firm's main fax department. Incoming faxes sent directly to the attorney's direct fax number are not charged.