



## City Council Staff Report

From: City Attorney  
Report Type: **CONSENT CALENDAR**  
Lead Department: City Attorney

Meeting Date: **June 19, 2023**

Report #:2305-1401

### TITLE

Authorization to Execute Amendment to Legal Services Contract S22184420 with Rankin Stock Heaberlin Oneal to Increase Amount by \$150,000 for Total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$225,000 and to Extend the Term to January 2025; CEQA Status – Not a Project

### RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Attorney or designee to amend the agreement for litigation defense services with the law firm of Rankin Stock Heaberlin Oneal (Contract S22184420) to increase the contract amount by \$150,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$225,000 and to extend the term to January 2025.

### BACKGROUND

Rankin Stock Heaberlin Oneal is a law firm representing cities in a variety of areas, including police civil rights claims and personal injury litigation.

In January 2022, the City entered into a two-year agreement (S22184420) in the amount of \$50,000 with Rankin Stock Heaberlin Oneal for continuing litigation defense services in civil suit Scrivner v. City of Palo Alto, et al., Santa Clara Co. Sup. Ct. Case No. 18-CV-333834. In December 2022, staff amended the contract to increase the not to exceed amount to \$75,000. Staff now seeks authority to increase the contract amount by \$150,000 which will bring the new not to exceed amount to \$225,000, and to extend the term to January 2025. Litigation defense is continuing in this matter.

Prior to agreement S22184420, the City entered into agreement S19175172 with Rankin Stock Heaberlin Oneal for initial Government Claim and litigation defense services in this matter. The city expended \$80,000 under the prior contract.

**FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT**

Funding for this amendment does not require additional budgetary authority as it can be accommodated within existing budgets.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Amendment of a legal services contract is not a project requiring environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (See CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5), administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment).

**APPROVED BY:**

Molly Stump, City Attorney