

July 7, 2015

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMPTON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH STRATEGIC COUNSEL PLC FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 (\$109,000)**

**SUMMARY**

The City Council will consider a resolution authorizing the City Manager to renew the professional services agreement with Strategic Counsel for state legislative and advocacy services during Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

**BACKGROUND**

Approximately 5,000 bills move through the California Legislature every session. Strategic Counsel has extensive experience representing public and private organizations on a wide range of issues including regulatory and legislative matters. Furthermore, Strategic Counsel has provided legislative and advocacy services to the City of Compton since July 2007 and possesses the experience and knowledge of issues specific to Compton to effectively represent the City at the State level.

By way of example of just a few of the matters and issues that Strategic Counsel has advocated on behalf of the City during Fiscal Year 2014-2015:

- Worked collaboratively with Governor Brown, the Department of Finance and a coalition of other cities, labor and law enforcement stakeholders to secure language in the 2015-16 Local Government Budget Trailer Bill that would restore to the City of Compton \$7 million per year in currently diverted voter-approved pension levy revenue. This very significant recovery of City revenue would avert a deficit in the pension fund and secure our City's retiree benefits, as intended by the voters of the City of Compton.
- Secured another critical legislative provision in the Governor's 2015-16 Local Control Trailer Bill that would allow the City's Redevelopment Successor Agency to receive a Finding of Completion. This Finding would allow the Successor Agency to begin disposing of properties held by the former Community Redevelopment Agency; allowing it to use some proceeds to pay off the RDA debt to the Department of Finance.

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- Assisted the City in working with the Department of Finance to remove obstacles that had prevented the Department of Finance’s final approval of the Renaissance Plaza Project, which has an economic impact to the City of \$3 million.
- Connected the City to SB 535 Cap and Trade Disadvantaged Communities Grant opportunities that could be used in future years to create urban forests and green spaces in Compton, including projects along Compton Creek.
- Worked with State legislators on Medical Marijuana policies to preserve the City’s local control in choosing whether to allow medical marijuana dispensaries to operate in its jurisdiction. Simultaneously, worked on federal Medical Marijuana Legislation (S. 683, by US. Senator Cory Booker) also to protect the City’s dispensary ban.
- Facilitated opportunities for the City to preserve its revenue stream from the Crystal Casino by helping the City to oppose onerous new regulations and by opposing the easing of restrictions on off-reservation land acquisition by Tribal Casino Interests.

## **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

In July 2013, Strategic Counsel met with the Mayor and City Council to review advocacy results and to develop a comprehensive legislative platform. That platform has remained the City’s guiding document, and general assignment to its legislative consultants. In order for the City to accomplish its mission, the unique expertise of Strategic Counsel is vital to ensuring that the City’s legislative platform and local interests are continually communicated to local and state legislative delegations.

Strategic Counsel has proven adept at translating Counsel Priorities into financially beneficial results and supporting the City’s local ordinances and regulations. Additionally, the City continues to be engaged in critical conversations with the Governor’s Office and the Department of Finance regarding redevelopment finance issues and key budget decisions. Given the importance of these discussions in the upcoming year, and Strategic Counsel’s effectiveness in its advocacy, it is in the best interest of the City to continue to avail itself of the expert services of Strategic Counsel to improve the likelihood of success in these vital decisions in the next fiscal year.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total cost for a professional services contract with Strategic Counsel will be \$9,000 per month and shall not exceed \$109,000<sup>1</sup> for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, commencing July 1, 2015 and

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<sup>1</sup> The additional \$1,000.00 indicated by the \$109,000, rather than \$108,000 would be to provide travel reimbursement for Strategic Counsel’s travel to the City three (3) times a Legislative Session to report directly to the City Council.

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terminating June 30, 2016. This annual rate has been consistent since 2007, since the City began contracting with Strategic Counsel.

Funds have been allocated in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget in Account No. 1001-510-000-4218.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council adopt the attached Resolution.

**JOHNNY FORD  
CITY MANAGER**



**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_****A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMPTON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH STRATEGIC COUNSEL PLC FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 (\$109,000)**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that it is necessary to retain legislative and advocacy services designed to enhance the City of Compton's ability to achieve its objectives and to help the City shape policies at the state level; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel, a fully qualified legislative firm, currently provides legislative and advocacy services and evaluates policy issues for the City of Compton; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel is a firm that understands the City's needs, goals, and shares its passion for success; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel serves as the City's principal advisor on state level public policy, legislative and economic development policies, and coordinates with the City Administration and City Council Members; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel led and organized the effort, involving eleven other Los Angeles area cities, to protect Compton's voter-approved pension tax, valued at \$7 million annually in 2014, and in 2015 secured language in the Governor's Local Government Trailer Bill that provides for the return to the City of Compton of the aforementioned \$7 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel helped secure another provision in the Governor's Local Government Trailer Bill that – by treating the City of Compton's signed Redevelopment Agency Debt Repayment Plan as its completion of its obligations to pay off past Community Redevelopment Agency (RDA) debt –the City can immediately dispose of valuable properties in the RDA area that would otherwise have to had to remain unsold until the full RDA debt was paid; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel facilitated meetings with the Department of Finance to gain commitment to clear the remaining obstacles preventing the completion of the Renaissance Plaza project, which has an economic impact to the City of \$3 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel facilitated the City's application for a SB 535 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Disadvantaged Community Grant to create urban forests and green space in Compton, which ultimately had to be postponed due to competing projects; but represents a continuing grant opportunity for the City, and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel defended the City's right to choose whether to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in its jurisdiction and successfully sought language in currently moving legislation that seeks to create a regulatory framework for medical marijuana at the state level and reclassification at the federal level; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel assisted the City in preserving its revenue stream from Crystal Casino – nearly \$2 million a year – by supporting the current regulatory framework around card rooms and voicing opposition to the easing of restrictions that allow Tribal Gaming Interests to claim traditionally off-reservation lands for gaming; and

**WHEREAS**, the dynamic of the State Legislature continues to change, Strategic Counsel provides the City a unique advantage in familiarizing Members with the City's unique needs and interests; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel has tracked over six hundred pieces of legislation for the City, facilitated the City’s engagement around eight legislative matters and actively monitored developments around transportation funding, the state drought, workforce development, and medical marijuana; and

**WHEREAS**, Strategic Counsel has also represented the City's interests on issues including redevelopment, land use, local finance, environmental funding, property taxes, and local powers and as such requests to continue as the City of Compton's state legislative representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for the renewal of said agreement are available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMPTON DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the City Manager, upon the advice and approval of the City Attorney is hereby authorized to renew the professional services contract with Strategic Counsel PLC for legislative and advocacy services during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for an amount not to exceed \$109,000.00 at a rate of \$9,000.00 per month plus \$1,000.00 in total for travel expense reimbursement, commencing July 1, 2015 and terminating June 30, 2016.

**SECTION 2.** That funds for these services are allocated in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year budget in Account No. 1001-510-000-4218.

**SECTION 3.** That a purchase order is authorized to be issued in an amount not to exceed \$109,000.00.

**SECTION 4.** That certified copies of this Resolution shall be filed in the offices of the City Controller, City Clerk, City Manager, and the City Attorney.

**SECTION 5.** That the Mayor shall sign and the City Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF COMPTON**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF COMPTON**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
CITY OF COMPTON: ss

**Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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I, Alita Godwin, City Clerk of the City of Compton, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council, signed by the Mayor, and attested by the City Clerk at the regular meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

That said Resolution was adopted by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:            COUNCIL MEMBERS-**  
**NOES:           COUNCIL MEMBERS-**  
**ABSENT:        COUNCIL MEMBERS-**  
**ABSTAIN:       COUNCIL MEMBERS-**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF COMPTON**



**RESOLUTION SIGN-OFF FORM**

**DEPARTMENT:** City Management

**RESOLUTION TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMPTON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH STRATEGIC COUNSEL PLC FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 (\$109,000)

*Kelly Montgomery*  
DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S SIGNATURE

6/18/2015 10:32:10 AM  
DATE

**REVIEW / APPROVAL**

*Ruth Rugley*  
CITY ATTORNEY

6/18/2015 3:33:54 PM  
DATE

*Stephen Ajobiewe*  
CITY CONTROLLER

6/18/2015 12:29:35 PM  
DATE

*Kelly Montgomery*  
CITY MANAGER

6/18/2015 11:21:04 AM  
DATE

Use when:	
Public Works:	When contracting for Engineering Services.
City Attorney:	When contracting for legal services; contracts that require City Attorney's review.
Controller/Budget Officer:	Amending Budget; appropriating and/or transferring funds; adding and/or deleting positions; any resolution having account numbers.
Asst. City Manager/OAS:	All personnel actions.