



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**To:** Honorable Mayor or Members of the City Council

**From:** Jason Simpson, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Shannon Buckley, Assistant City Manager

**Date:** February 28, 2023

**Subject:** **Agreement for Municipal Code Enforcement Legal Services with Civica Law Group, APC**

### **Recommendation**

Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement for Municipal Code Enforcement Legal Services with Civica Law Group, APC effective March 1, 2023.

### **Background**

The City has a strong code enforcement team with requests for code enforcement services on a daily basis. These activities result in numerous cases that require remedy of violations and code compliance. Legal services for municipal code enforcement matters, including court receivership when merited, are provided by special counsel. Since 2014, these special counsel services have been provided by Matt Silver and his team of attorneys at the law firm of Silver & Wright.

### **Discussion**

Matt Silver has formed a new law firm, the Civica Law Group, APC, to provide the same scope of legal services relied on by the City for the past 9 years. The Civica Law Group, APC has the same established legal professionals who specialize in code enforcement services and court receiverships with a proven track record of success in Lake Elsinore.

**Fiscal Impact**

For all legal services provided in this Agreement, the City will compensate the Civica Law Group, APC at the blended rate of \$245 per hour for attorney representation and \$138 per hour for paralegals and law clerks, which rates shall increase by 3% rounded to the nearest dollar on January 1 of each year to offset rising costs.

Cities are entitled to reimbursement of their enforcement expenses, court costs, attorney fees, and staff time including overhead. To the maximum extent allowable, the City seeks reimbursement for costs incurred in code enforcement and court receivership services.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1- Agreement