

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Matthew Fertal  
Dept.: City Manager  
Subject: AMENDMENT TO CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT

From: Maria Stipe  
Dept.: City Manager  
Date: June 10, 2008

OBJECTIVE

To recommend approval of an amendment to the contract with Woodruff, Spradlin and Smart to adjust the rate structure for City Attorney services.

BACKGROUND

Woodruff, Spradlin and Smart has provided City Attorney services to the City of Garden Grove since May 1992. These services include counsel on general city matters, counsel for the Planning Commission and other City hearing bodies, contract review, claims review, code enforcement prosecution, and litigation related to a wide variety of matters, including personnel issues. Woodruff, Spradlin and Smart rates have not been adjusted since 2001.

DISCUSSION

The City has received a request from Woodruff, Spradlin and Smart requesting an adjustment in their rates from \$160 to \$185 per hour for attorneys, and from \$85 to \$105 for paralegal services. In light of the quality of service being received by the City, and the amount of time, which has passed since their last increase, this adjustment seems appropriate and reasonable. Since 2001, annual increases to the consumer price index (CPI) add to 23%. Therefore, if those annual increases were applied, the compound hourly rate for attorneys would be \$201. During this time, expenditures for rent, firm employee salaries, supplies and communications have risen substantially. The proposed increase is well below the rise in the CPI. Woodruff, Spradlin, and Smart also proposes to include an annual CPI adjustment provision for future years, with an annual cap of 4%.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If approved, funds will be included in the FY 2008-09 budget to cover the amount of the increase.


COMMUNITY VISION IMPLEMENTATION

Legal services include counsel on matters directly related to the Community Vision (e.g., code enforcement prosecution, economic development, contract review, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

- Approve the attached amendment to the agreement with Woodruff, Spradlin and Smart for City Attorney services; and
- Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the amendment on behalf of the City.

  
MARIA STIPE  
Assistant to the City Manager

**Recommended for Approval**

  
**Matthew Feral**  
City Manager

Attachment: Amendment to Agreement