

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: June 4, 2007

Agenda Item: 7 (A)	Prepared By: A. William Moss, City Manager Date: May 29, 2007
Agenda Section: Business: Discussion	
Subject: Recommendation from the City Attorney Selection Committee	Department: City Council

BACKGROUND:

City Council is asked to consider the recommendation of the City Attorney Selection Committee to contract with Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.A. for services as City Attorney.

Following the notice by Richard Yovanovich that his firm no longer desires to provide City Attorney services, City Council agreed to form a City Attorney Selection Committee chaired by Councilman Glenn Tucker. Committee members are Glenn Tucker, Rich Yovanovich, Craig Woodward, Roger Reinke, and Bill Moss. Following the development and advertisement of a Request for Letters of Interest, Letters of Interest were received from Patrick H. Neale of Marco Island; Roetzel & Andress of Naples; Porter, Wright, Morris, & Arthur of Naples, and Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske of Miami-Dade and Broward County.

On May 21, 2007 Councilman Tucker provided a status report to City Council following interviews with three of the four firms. Councilman Tucker advised that the fourth firm was scheduled for an interview on May 25th.

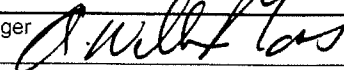
The City Attorney Selection Committee was unanimous in their opinion that the firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske are the most qualified to provide services as City Attorney. With offices in Miami-Dade and Broward County, and with about forty-five attorneys, the firm is one of the few Florida law firms with a practice primarily focused upon the representation of local governments and public-sector entities. The firm provides expertise in land use, real estate, labor and employment, communications law, and other areas of specialization. The firm includes attorneys who have previously served in city and county legal departments as well as litigators and practitioners. Alan L. Gabriel, Esquire will be designated by the firm as City Attorney. Other attorneys in the firm will work with the City depending upon the nature of the services required.

The firm proposes an hourly rate of \$210.00. The Committee has negotiated a flat fee of \$300 per round trip. The travel fee is based on \$75 per hour with a four hour round trip, although the flat fee is applicable regardless of the amount of time required. A surcharge of 2.5% is added to the billing rate for overhead.

The City Attorney Selection Committee recommends that City Council retain the services of Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske and authorize Councilman Tucker to negotiate a contract with the firm. Mr. Alan L. Gabriel and Mr. Richard Weiss will be present and prepared to interview with City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City Attorney Selection Committee recommends the appointment of Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske to serve as City Attorney. Authorize Councilman Tucker to negotiate the contract.

Reviewed by Department Director	Reviewed by City Manager 
Council Action: Motion by:	Second by: