

RESOLUTION 18-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING ENGAGEMENT OF HOLLAND & KNIGHT AND ADOPTING BUDGET AMENDMENT TO OFFSET THESE UNANTICIPATED LEGAL COSTS.

BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the City are authorized to accept and deliver on behalf of the City that certain Agreement between the City and Holland & Knight, relating to legal representation arising from a lawsuit filed by Classy Cycles, Inc. concerning the City's occupational fee for merchants, at the discounted rate of \$550 per hour, in substantially the form attached and presented to the Council today, with such changes, insertions or omissions as may be approved by the City Manager and whose execution shall be conclusive evidence of such approval.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following budget amendment (#9) is adopted by the City of Panama City Beach, Florida for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018, as shown in and in accordance with the attached and incorporated Exhibit A to provide sufficient funds for these unforeseen legal fees.

THIS RESOLUTION shall be effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED in regular session this 25th day of January, 2018.

CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

By: Mike Thomas

Mike Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jo Smith

Jo Smith, City Clerk



CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. DEPARTMENT MAKING REQUEST/NAME:

LEGAL

2. MEETING DATE:

JANUARY 25, 2018

3. REQUESTED MOTION/ACTION:

APPROVE ENGAGEMENT OF TAX ATTORNEY AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT

4. AGENDA

PRESENTATION
PUBLIC HEARING
CONSENT
REGULAR

5. IS THIS ITEM BUDGETED (IF APPLICABLE)? YES NO N/A
BUDGET AMENDMENT OR N/A

DETAILED BUDGET AMENDMENT ATTACHED YES NO N/A

6. BACKGROUND: (WHY IS THE ACTION NECESSARY, WHAT GOAL WILL BE ACHIEVED)

Last month a lawsuit was filed challenging the validity of the City's occupational license fee imposed against City merchants, the coverage and defense of which has been declined by the City's insurer. Staff recommends the engagement of special counsel Jim Ervin with Holland & Knight, an experienced tax attorney who is familiar with the City's business tax schedule. The lawsuit, and the legal fees that will be incurred in the defense of this lawsuit, were unforeseen at the beginning of the fiscal year, and staff recommends a budget amended be adopted now to offset an anticipated shortfall in the legal budget arising from this litigation.

Holland & Knight

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James M. Ervin
850-425-5649
jim.ervin@hklaw.com

January 17, 2018

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: ATTORNEY-CLIENT COMMUNICATION

Via E-mail (cdavis@HSMcLaw.com)

J. Cole Davis
Hand Arendall Harrison Sale LLC
304 Magnolia Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401

Re: Engagement of Holland and Knight LLP

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for retaining Holland & Knight LLP to represent the City of Panama City Beach, Florida ("City") with regard to the lawsuit filed by Classy Cycles, Inc. against the City (Case Number 17001297-CA, 14th Circuit). Our engagement will involve providing such advice and assistance as you request concerning the merchant tax issues involved in this litigation. We understand that you will be primarily responsible for the conduct of the litigation and that we will take direction from you regarding our involvement in the matter. We look forward to serving the City's needs in this matter and to establishing a mutually satisfactory relationship.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our engagement as counsel and to provide you with certain information concerning our fees, billing and collection policies, and other terms that will govern our relationship. Although we do not wish to be overly formal in our relationship with the City, we have found it a helpful practice to confirm with our clients the nature and terms of our representation. Attached to this letter are our firm's standard terms of engagement. Please review these and let me know if you have any questions concerning our policies. As the you will see, we have a policy of requiring an advance fee deposit with respect to the last billing for a particular matter, or if our relationship develops into an ongoing relationship, we credit portions of the advance deposit at appropriate times. Of course, if the advance fee deposit exceeds the amount of our bills, we refund the excess. In this case, we have determined that no deposit is required at this time. We will advise if the need for a deposit arises at a later point in this representation. The firm currently bills my time at the rate \$695 per hour. However, for this engagement, my rate will be discounted to \$550 per hour. To the extent that there is a need for any other firm lawyers, we will advise of this and of their billing rates.

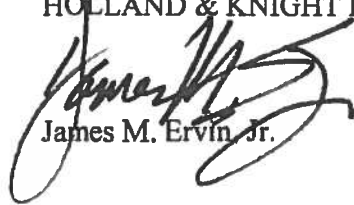
J. Cole Davis
January 17, 2018
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If the terms described above and in the attached terms of engagement are satisfactory, please so indicate by signing and returning the enclosed copy of this letter.

We look forward to working with you to bring these matters to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely yours,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP



James M. Ervin, Jr.

JME/sv
Enclosure

Approved this _____ day of January, 2018.

CLIENT NAME: CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

We appreciate your decision to retain Holland & Knight LLP as your legal counsel.

This document explains how we work, our obligations to you, your obligations to us, what we will do on your behalf, and how our charges will be determined and billed. Experience has shown that an understanding of these matters will contribute to a better relationship between us, and that in turn makes our efforts more productive.

Our engagement and the services that we will provide to you are limited to the matter identified in the accompanying letter. Any changes in the scope of our representation as described in the letter must be approved in writing. We will provide services of a strictly legal nature related to the matters described in that letter. You will provide us with the factual information and materials we require to perform the services identified in the letter, and you will make such business or technical decisions and determinations as are appropriate. You will not rely on us for business, investment, or accounting decisions, or expect us to investigate the character or credit of persons or entities with whom you may be dealing, unless otherwise specified in the letter.

We cannot guarantee the outcome of any matter. Any expression of our professional judgment regarding your matter or the potential outcome is, of course, limited by our knowledge of the facts and based on the law at the time of expression. It is also subject to any unknown or uncertain factors or conditions beyond our control.

Confidentiality and Related Matters

Regarding the ethics of our profession that will govern our representation, several points deserve emphasis. As a matter of professional responsibility, we are required to hold confidential all information relating to the representation of our clients, subject to certain exceptions that we will discuss with you. This professional obligation and the legal privilege for attorney-client communications exist to encourage candid and complete communication between a client and his lawyer. We can perform truly beneficial services for a client only if we are aware of all information that might be relevant to our representation. Consequently, we trust that our attorney-client relationship with you will be based on mutual confidence and unrestrained communication that will facilitate our proper representation of you.

Additionally, you should be aware that, in instances in which we represent a corporation or other entity, our client relationship is with the entity and not with its individual executives, shareholders, directors, members, managers, partners, or persons in similar positions, or with its parent, subsidiaries, or other affiliates. In those cases, our professional responsibilities are owed only to that entity, alone, and no conflict of interest will be asserted by you because we represent persons with respect to interests that are adverse to individual persons or business organizations who have a relationship with you. That is to say, unless the letter accompanying this document indicates otherwise, Holland & Knight's attorney-client relationship with the entity does not give rise to an attorney-client relationship with the parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates of the entity, and representation of the entity in this matter will not give rise to any conflict of interest in the event other clients of the firm are adverse to the parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates of the entity. Of course, we can also represent individual executives, shareholders, directors, members, managers, partners, and other persons related to the entity in matters that do not conflict with the interests of the entity, but any such representation will be the subject of a separate engagement letter. Similarly, when we represent a party on an insured claim, we represent the insured, not the insurer, even though we may be approved, selected, or paid by the insurer.

The firm attempts to achieve efficiencies and savings for its clients by managing the firm's administrative operations (e.g., file storage, document duplication, word processing, accounting/billing) in the most efficient manner possible, including outsourcing certain functions to third parties. Outsourcing in this manner may require the firm to allow access by third parties to your confidential information, and in some cases, these third parties may be located outside the United States. The firm will follow applicable legal ethics rules with regard to such outsourcing and protection of confidential information.

Fees and Billing

Clients frequently ask us to estimate the fees and other charges they are likely to incur in connection with a particular matter. We are pleased to respond to such requests whenever possible with an estimate based on our professional judgment. This estimate always carries the understanding that, unless we agree otherwise in writing, it does not represent a maximum, minimum, or fixed fee quotation. The ultimate cost frequently is more or less than the amount estimated.

Legal Fees. We encourage flexibility in determining billing arrangements. For example, we often agree with our clients to perform services on a fixed-fee or other basis that we and the client believe will encourage efficiency and reflect the value of our services in relation to a particular objective.

If you and we have agreed on a fixed fee arrangement, our fees will not be limited to the fixed amount if you fail to make a complete and accurate disclosure of information that we have requested and that we reasonably require for our work, or if you materially change the terms, conditions, scope, or nature of the work, as described by you when we determined the fixed amount. If any of these events occurs, our fees will be based upon the other factors described below, unless you and we agree on a revised fixed fee.

If the accompanying engagement letter does not provide for a fixed fee, or if we do not otherwise confirm to you in writing a fee arrangement, our fees for services will be determined as described in the following paragraphs.

When establishing fees for services that we render, we are guided primarily by the time and labor required, although we also consider other appropriate factors, such as the novelty and difficulty of the legal issues involved; the legal skill required to perform the particular assignment; time-saving use of resources (including research, analysis, data and documentation) that we have previously developed and stored electronically or otherwise in quickly retrievable form; the fee customarily charged by comparable firms for similar legal services; the amount of money involved or at risk and the results obtained; and the time constraints imposed by either you or the circumstances. In determining a reasonable fee for the time and labor required for a particular matter, we consider the ability, experience, and reputation of the lawyer or lawyers in our firm who perform the services. To facilitate this determination, we internally assign to each lawyer an hourly rate based on these factors. Of course, our internal hourly rates change periodically to account for increases in our cost of delivering legal service, other economic factors, and the augmentation of a particular lawyer's ability, experience, and reputation. Any such changes in hourly rates are applied prospectively, as well as to unbilled time previously expended. We record and bill our time in one-tenth hour (six minute) increments.

When selecting lawyers to perform services for you, we generally seek to assign lawyers having the lowest hourly rates consistent with the skills, time demands, and other factors influencing the professional responsibility involved in each matter. That does not mean that we will always assign a lawyer with a lower hourly rate than other lawyers. As circumstances require, the services of lawyers in the firm with special skills or experience may be sought when that will either (a) reduce the legal expense to you, (b) provide a specialized legal skill needed, or (c) help move the matter forward more quickly. Also, to encourage the use of such lawyers in situations where their services can provide a significant benefit that is disproportionate to the time devoted to the matter, we may not bill for their services on an hourly rate basis but, if you agree in advance, we will adjust the fee on an "added value" basis at the conclusion of the matter if and to the extent their services contribute to a favorable result for you.

Disbursements. In addition to legal fees, our statements will include out-of-pocket expenses that we have advanced on your behalf and our internal charges (which may exceed direct costs and allocated overhead expenses) for certain support activities. Alternatively, the firm may charge for such internal charges as a percentage of the fees charged. Advanced expenses generally will include, but are not limited to, such items as travel, postage, filing, recording, certification, and registration fees charged by governmental bodies. Our internal charges typically include, but are not limited to, such items as toll calls, facsimile transmissions, overnight courier services, certain charges for terminal time for computer research and complex document production, and charges for photocopying materials sent to the client or third parties or required for our use.

We may request an advance cost deposit when we expect that we will be required to incur substantial costs on behalf of the client.

During the course of our representation, it may be appropriate to hire third parties to provide services on your behalf. These services may include such things as consulting or testifying experts, investigators, providers of computerized litigation support, and court reporters. Because of the legal "work product" protection afforded to services that an attorney requests from third parties, in certain situations our firm may assume responsibility for

retaining the appropriate service providers. Even if we do so, however, you will be responsible for paying all fees and expenses directly to the service providers or reimbursing us for these expenses.

The firm attempts to achieve efficiencies and savings for its clients when dealing with independent contractors. The firm may be able to obtain a reduced charge from the contractor if the firm provides certain functions, such as billing, collection, equipment, space, facilities, or clerical help. For these administrative and coordination services, the firm may charge an administrative fee, which will be separately disclosed to you.

Billing. We bill periodically throughout the engagement for a particular matter, and our periodic statements are due when rendered. If our fees are based primarily on the amount of our time devoted to the matter, our statements will be rendered monthly. In instances in which we represent more than one person with respect to a matter, each person that we represent is jointly and severally liable for our fees and expenses with respect to the representation. Our statements contain a concise summary of each matter for which legal services are rendered and a fee is charged.

If a statement remains unpaid for more than 30 days, you will be contacted by an H&K representative inquiring why it is unpaid. Additionally, if a statement has not been paid within 30 days from its date, the firm may impose an interest charge of 1.25 percent per month (a 15 percent annual percentage rate) from the 30th day after the date of the statement until it is paid in full. Interest charges apply to specific monthly statements on an individual statement basis. Any payments made on past due statements are applied first to the oldest outstanding statement.

It is the firm's policy that if an invoice remains unpaid for more than 90 days, absent extraordinary circumstances and subject to legal ethics constraints, H&K's representation will cease, and you hereby authorize us to withdraw from all representation of you. Any unapplied deposits will be applied to outstanding balances. Generally, the firm will not recommence its representation or accept new work from you until your account is brought current and a new deposit for fees and costs, in an amount that the firm determines, is paid to it.

In addition, if you do not pay H&K's statements as they become due, the firm may require a substantial partial payment and delivery of an interest-bearing promissory note as part of any arrangement under which it may, in its discretion, agree to continue its representation. Any such promissory note will serve merely as evidence of your obligation, and shall not be regarded as payment.

If allowed by applicable law, H&K is entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs if collection activities are necessary. In addition, H&K shall have all general, possessory, or retaining liens, and all special or charging liens, recognized by law.

Payment of our fees and costs is not contingent on the ultimate outcome of our representation, unless we have expressly agreed in writing to a contingent fee.

Questions About Our Bills. We invite you to discuss freely with us any questions that you have concerning a fee charged for any matter. We want our clients to be satisfied with both the quality of our services and the reasonableness of the fees that we charge for those services. We will attempt to provide as much billing information as you require and in such customary form that you desire, and are willing to discuss with you any of the various billing formats we have available that best suits your needs.

Relationships with Other Clients

Because we are a large, full-service law firm with offices located in various cities we may be (and often are) asked to represent a client with respect to interests that are adverse to those of another client who is represented by the firm in connection with another matter. Just as you would not wish to be prevented in an appropriate situation from retaining a law firm that competes with Holland & Knight LLP, our firm wishes to be able to consider the representation of other persons or entities that may be competitors in your industry or who may have interests that are adverse to yours, but with respect to matters that are unrelated in any way to our representation of you. The ethics that govern us permit us to accept such multiple representations, assuming certain conditions are met, as set forth below.

During the term of this engagement, we will not accept representation of another client to pursue interests that are directly adverse to your interests unless and until we make full disclosure to you of all the relevant facts, circumstances, and implications of our undertaking the two representations, and confirm to you in good faith that we have done so and that the following criteria are met: (i) there is no substantial relationship between any matter in which we are representing or have represented you and the matter for the other client; (ii) any confidential information that we have received from you will not be available to the lawyers and other Holland & Knight LLP

personnel involved in the representation of the other client; (iii) our effective representation of you and the discharge of our professional responsibilities to you will not be prejudiced by our representation of the other client; and (iv) the other client has also consented in writing based on our full disclosure of the relevant facts, circumstances, and implications of our undertaking the two representations. If the foregoing conditions are satisfied, we may undertake the adverse representation and all conflict issues will be deemed to have been resolved or waived by you.

By making this agreement, we are establishing the criteria that will govern the exercise of your right under applicable ethical rules to object to our representation of another client whose interests are adverse to yours. If you contest in good faith the facts underlying our confirmation to you that the specified criteria have been met, then we will have the burden of reasonably supporting those facts.

Knowledge Management Tool

In order to better and more economically serve our clients, we have implemented a document search engine that will allow us to search the firm's institutional work product to determine whether there exist documents created for one client that can be used as a starting point for the preparation of new documents for other clients. Documents that are subject to ethics wall restrictions, have extraordinary confidentiality requirements, or contain sensitive client information will not be included in this system.

Termination

Upon completion of the matter to which this representation applies, or upon earlier termination of our relationship, the attorney-client relationship will end unless you and we have expressly agreed to a continuation with respect to other matters. We hope, of course, that such a continuation will be the case. The representation is terminable at will by either of us. The termination of the representation will not terminate your obligation to pay fees and expenses incurred prior to the termination and for any services rendered or disbursements required to implement the transition to new counsel.

* * * * *

Your agreement to this engagement constitutes your acceptance of the foregoing terms and conditions. If any of them is unacceptable to you, please advise us now so that we can resolve any differences and proceed with a clear, complete, and consistent understanding of our relationship.