



Legislation Details

File #: 22-3172 **Version:** 1 **Name:** Renew Gray Robinson lobbyist for one year 22-23
Type: Resolution **Status:** Passed
File created: 9/9/2022 **In control:** City Commission
On agenda: 9/20/2022 **Final action:** 9/20/2022
Title: *Approving a one (1) year renewal of the Engagement Letter for Advisory Services with Gray Robinson, PA, to serve as the City's Florida Government Lobbyist for the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.
Sponsors: Shawn Smith
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments: 1. Resolution, 2. Executive Summary, 3. Gray Robinson Agreement 2019 Signed, 4. 19-321 Resolution

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
9/20/2022	1	City Commission	Passed	Pass

GRAY ROBINSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JASON UNGER
TALLAHASSEE MANAGING DIRECTOR
850-577-9090
JASON.UGER@GRAY-ROBINSON.COM

BOCA RATON
301 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
SUITE 600
FORT LAUDERDALE
FORT MYERS
POST OFFICE BOX 11189 (32302-3189)
GAINESVILLE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
JACKSONVILLE
TEL 850-577-9090
KEY WEST
FAX 850-577-3311
gray-robinson.com
LAKELAND
MELBOURNE
MIAMI
NAPLES
ORLANDO
TALLAHASSEE
TAMPA
WASHINGTON, DC
WEST PALM BEACH

October 31, 2019

Via Email Transmittal - sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
Post Office Box 1409
Key West, Florida 33041-1409

Re: Engagement with GrayRobinson, P.A.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your interest in GrayRobinson, P.A. (“GrayRobinson” or “the Firm”). We appreciate the opportunity to provide governmental consulting services to the City of Key West (the “City”). The Firm is committed to providing the highest level of service in furtherance of your goals. This letter will describe the terms under which that representation will occur, disclose the Firm’s reporting responsibilities under the law, and summarize the nature of government consulting services as compared to legal services.

Firm Contacts for Your Representation

You have asked the Firm to represent the City before the State of Florida within the executive and legislative branches of government. The entire team of GrayRobinson’s lobbyists will be available to advance your interests. However, in order to ensure that your needs are efficiently and fully addressed, I will be the primary contact for this representation. If I should ever be unavailable, I would encourage you to contact Joseph Salzverg, who will serve as the secondary contact for this representation.

Fees, Costs and Terms

In exchange for these services, the Organization agrees to pay the Firm \$6,000 per month for the three-year period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022, with a renewal option of two one-year renewals. All payments should be remitted to 301 East Pine Street, Suite 1400, Orlando, Florida 32801 or via ACH transfer or other electronic transfer upon receipt of invoice. Documented, out-of-pocket costs, including travel at the City’s request and registration fees, directly attributable to the performance of our work will be billed in addition to a monthly retainer. Both the City and the Firm have the right to terminate this contract with or without cause with thirty (30) days’ notice given.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 2

Lobbyist Registration

Florida law requires that GrayRobinson's lobbyists must register with the State prior to engaging in lobbying activity. Lobbyist registrations are effective when they are received by the State, and lobbying may not occur prior to proper registration. The registration and fee cycle is the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Therefore, the City consents for the Firm's lobbyists to register to represent the City, and the Organization agrees to reimburse the Firm for the cost of lobbyist registrations.

Lobbyist registration fees are:

- **Legislature:** \$20 for each person from the point of registration until December 31; then renewed in January each calendar year thereafter.
- **Executive:** \$25 for each person from the point of registration until December 31; then renewed in January each calendar year thereafter.

Lobbyist registration forms will be sent under separate cover following the execution of this agreement. By signing below, you agree to complete and return these forms, which are necessary to our representation of the City during the term of this contract or after its termination should reporting periods overlap. The Firm cannot commence representation until these forms are returned and properly filed with the State.

Compensation Reporting

Florida law requires that the fees and costs invoiced by GrayRobinson for lobbying services are reportable to the State on a quarterly basis to both the Florida Legislature and the Florida Commission on Ethics. Therefore, the City consents to the quarterly disclosure of compensation paid or owed to GrayRobinson for lobbying activity as required by Chapter 2005-359, Laws of Florida. Such consent is granted so that GrayRobinson may file the specified quarterly reports, disclosing only the information required by Chapter 2005-359, Laws of Florida, and shall remain in effect as long as any GrayRobinson lawyer or non-lawyer lobbyist serves as the client's registered representative before the Legislature and any executive branch agency.

Unless you direct otherwise, the Firm will attribute and report 50 percent of our fees and reimbursements as legislative branch lobbying fees, and 50 percent of our fees and reimbursements as executive branch lobbying fees, subject to periodic adjustment by us to reflect our best professional judgment regarding allocation of our efforts associated with this representation.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 3

Confidentiality

In order to ensure the candor and trust in our relationship that forms the basis of effective representation it is the policy of the Firm to keep strictly confidential all information about your interests and strategies. Because information is our stock in trade and because advancing your interests may depend on it we ask that you also keep confidential any information we may share with you regarding political strategy, insight, information, or analysis. You may share information pertaining to our representation of you with your other consultants and representatives except for any information we specifically deem to be confidential, either verbally or in writing.

Distinguishing Between Lobbying and Legal Services; Conflicts

GrayRobinson offers not only legal services but also lobbying services. The Florida Bar treats legal services differently than non-legal services, which includes lobbying and consulting. It is important to understand the distinction between those services relative to conflicts, and the scope of this representation. *This lobbyist engagement does not create an attorney/client relationship between you and our firm.* If legal services are required by the City, we will enter into a separate engagement.

Both lobbyists and lawyers must avoid conflict of interest. Lawyers may not accept a legal client adverse to another legal client in a legal matter, and our lobbyists will decline to accept a lobbying client involved in legal action against an existing legal or lobbying client of the Firm. However, legal services and lobbying are separate and distinct services for the purposes of evaluating conflicts, and, because lobbying frequently involves advocating for potential changes to existing law within the legislative branch or application of the law by the executive branch, the positions advanced on behalf of lobbying clients may or may not differ from legal positions taken on behalf of clients in judicial proceedings. In some instances, lobbying clients may not have a legal conflict, but they may be marketplace competitors or they may take inconsistent positions on one or more lobbying issues. We will bring any such situations to your attention immediately upon discovery and we likewise ask you to contact us immediately if you have similar concerns at any time. Whenever conditions merit, we will implement and maintain an "ethics wall" to maintain complete separation of information, strategy, and personnel associated with the affected lobbying clients.

Under the scope of representation outlined above we know of no lobbying conflicts with our current lobbying clients, and we have discussed our plan for protecting your interest from marketplace competitors via an ethics wall. If you ever have a concern about a perceived or potential conflict, or any other issue we ask that you alert us immediately so we can address it in a mutually acceptable fashion. We will do the same.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 4

I believe the above reflects our understanding. If it does, please sign this agreement and return to me. If not already completed, electronic lobbyist registration forms will be sent separately from the respective entities for 2019. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you. Please never hesitate to contact me if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,


Jason Unger

CITY OF KEY WEST

By: 

Printed Name: SHAWN D. SMITH

Title: CITY ATTORNEY

GRAY ROBINSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JASON UNGER
TALLAHASSEE MANAGING DIRECTOR
850-577-9090
JASON.UGER@GRAY-ROBINSON.COM

BOCA RATON
301 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
SUITE 600
FORT LAUDERDALE
FORT MYERS
POST OFFICE BOX 11189 (32302-3189)
GAINESVILLE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
JACKSONVILLE
TEL 850-577-9090
KEY WEST
FAX 850-577-3311
gray-robinson.com
LAKELAND
MELBOURNE
MIAMI
NAPLES
ORLANDO
TALLAHASSEE
TAMPA
WASHINGTON, DC
WEST PALM BEACH

October 31, 2019

Via Email Transmittal - sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
Post Office Box 1409
Key West, Florida 33041-1409

Re: Engagement with GrayRobinson, P.A.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your interest in GrayRobinson, P.A. (“GrayRobinson” or “the Firm”). We appreciate the opportunity to provide governmental consulting services to the City of Key West (the “City”). The Firm is committed to providing the highest level of service in furtherance of your goals. This letter will describe the terms under which that representation will occur, disclose the Firm’s reporting responsibilities under the law, and summarize the nature of government consulting services as compared to legal services.

Firm Contacts for Your Representation

You have asked the Firm to represent the City before the State of Florida within the executive and legislative branches of government. The entire team of GrayRobinson’s lobbyists will be available to advance your interests. However, in order to ensure that your needs are efficiently and fully addressed, I will be the primary contact for this representation. If I should ever be unavailable, I would encourage you to contact Joseph Salzverg, who will serve as the secondary contact for this representation.

Fees, Costs and Terms

In exchange for these services, the Organization agrees to pay the Firm \$6,000 per month for the three-year period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2022, with a renewal option of two one-year renewals. All payments should be remitted to 301 East Pine Street, Suite 1400, Orlando, Florida 32801 or via ACH transfer or other electronic transfer upon receipt of invoice. Documented, out-of-pocket costs, including travel at the City’s request and registration fees, directly attributable to the performance of our work will be billed in addition to a monthly retainer. Both the City and the Firm have the right to terminate this contract with or without cause with thirty (30) days’ notice given.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 2

Lobbyist Registration

Florida law requires that GrayRobinson's lobbyists must register with the State prior to engaging in lobbying activity. Lobbyist registrations are effective when they are received by the State, and lobbying may not occur prior to proper registration. The registration and fee cycle is the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Therefore, the City consents for the Firm's lobbyists to register to represent the City, and the Organization agrees to reimburse the Firm for the cost of lobbyist registrations.

Lobbyist registration fees are:

- **Legislature:** \$20 for each person from the point of registration until December 31; then renewed in January each calendar year thereafter.
- **Executive:** \$25 for each person from the point of registration until December 31; then renewed in January each calendar year thereafter.

Lobbyist registration forms will be sent under separate cover following the execution of this agreement. By signing below, you agree to complete and return these forms, which are necessary to our representation of the City during the term of this contract or after its termination should reporting periods overlap. The Firm cannot commence representation until these forms are returned and properly filed with the State.

Compensation Reporting

Florida law requires that the fees and costs invoiced by GrayRobinson for lobbying services are reportable to the State on a quarterly basis to both the Florida Legislature and the Florida Commission on Ethics. Therefore, the City consents to the quarterly disclosure of compensation paid or owed to GrayRobinson for lobbying activity as required by Chapter 2005-359, Laws of Florida. Such consent is granted so that GrayRobinson may file the specified quarterly reports, disclosing only the information required by Chapter 2005-359, Laws of Florida, and shall remain in effect as long as any GrayRobinson lawyer or non-lawyer lobbyist serves as the client's registered representative before the Legislature and any executive branch agency.

Unless you direct otherwise, the Firm will attribute and report 50 percent of our fees and reimbursements as legislative branch lobbying fees, and 50 percent of our fees and reimbursements as executive branch lobbying fees, subject to periodic adjustment by us to reflect our best professional judgment regarding allocation of our efforts associated with this representation.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 3

Confidentiality

In order to ensure the candor and trust in our relationship that forms the basis of effective representation it is the policy of the Firm to keep strictly confidential all information about your interests and strategies. Because information is our stock in trade and because advancing your interests may depend on it we ask that you also keep confidential any information we may share with you regarding political strategy, insight, information, or analysis. You may share information pertaining to our representation of you with your other consultants and representatives except for any information we specifically deem to be confidential, either verbally or in writing.

Distinguishing Between Lobbying and Legal Services; Conflicts

GrayRobinson offers not only legal services but also lobbying services. The Florida Bar treats legal services differently than non-legal services, which includes lobbying and consulting. It is important to understand the distinction between those services relative to conflicts, and the scope of this representation. *This lobbyist engagement does not create an attorney/client relationship between you and our firm.* If legal services are required by the City, we will enter into a separate engagement.

Both lobbyists and lawyers must avoid conflict of interest. Lawyers may not accept a legal client adverse to another legal client in a legal matter, and our lobbyists will decline to accept a lobbying client involved in legal action against an existing legal or lobbying client of the Firm. However, legal services and lobbying are separate and distinct services for the purposes of evaluating conflicts, and, because lobbying frequently involves advocating for potential changes to existing law within the legislative branch or application of the law by the executive branch, the positions advanced on behalf of lobbying clients may or may not differ from legal positions taken on behalf of clients in judicial proceedings. In some instances, lobbying clients may not have a legal conflict, but they may be marketplace competitors or they may take inconsistent positions on one or more lobbying issues. We will bring any such situations to your attention immediately upon discovery and we likewise ask you to contact us immediately if you have similar concerns at any time. Whenever conditions merit, we will implement and maintain an "ethics wall" to maintain complete separation of information, strategy, and personnel associated with the affected lobbying clients.

Under the scope of representation outlined above we know of no lobbying conflicts with our current lobbying clients, and we have discussed our plan for protecting your interest from marketplace competitors via an ethics wall. If you ever have a concern about a perceived or potential conflict, or any other issue we ask that you alert us immediately so we can address it in a mutually acceptable fashion. We will do the same.

Shawn D. Smith, Esq.
City Attorney
City of Key West
October 31, 2019
Page 4

I believe the above reflects our understanding. If it does, please sign this agreement and return to me. If not already completed, electronic lobbyist registration forms will be sent separately from the respective entities for 2019. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you. Please never hesitate to contact me if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,


Jason Unger

CITY OF KEY WEST

By: 

Printed Name: SHAWN D. SMITH

Title: CITY ATTORNEY