



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DATE: June 7, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Eric P. Brown, Washoe County Manager,

EPriceBrown@washoecounty.us

David L. Watts-Vial, Washoe County Assistant District Attorney,

dwatts@da.washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to retroactively approve and continue a professional services agreement with Brian M. Brown, Esq. in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to perform legal services for Washoe County in circumstances where the Washoe County District Attorney has or may have a conflict of interest. (All Commissioner Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to retroactively approve and continue a professional services agreement with Brian M. Brown, Esq. in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to perform legal services for Washoe County in circumstances where the Washoe County District Attorney has or may have a conflict of interest.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

BACKGROUND

By law the Washoe County District Attorney's Office represents and provides day-to-day advice and guidance to Washoe County, its elected and appointed officials, and employees. While infrequent, the District Attorney's duties to its various County clients can come into conflict, which necessitates the hiring of outside counsel, sometimes on short notice and when immediate or near-immediate action is required. The County Manager is bringing agreements such as that presented to the Board today for the Board's review in advance of conflicts rather than waiting for circumstances where a conflict arises. The Manager and/or purchasing and contracts administrator will then have a choice of attorneys or law firms from which to choose which the Board has already reviewed.

Mr. Brown was engaged to perform work for the County because of his experience representing local governments, officials, and employees, including Washoe County over the past 25 years as a former Washoe County Deputy District Attorney in the Civil

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Division of the DA's Office and in private practice while an associate and partner in the law firm of Thorndal, Armstrong, Delk, Balkenbush and Eisinger.

The Board is now asked to retroactively approve and continue the Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not to exceed \$100,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to retroactively approve and continue a professional services agreement with Brian M. Brown, Esq. in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to perform legal services for Washoe County in circumstances where the Washoe County District Attorney has or may have a conflict of interest.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to retroactively approve and continue a professional services agreement with Brian M. Brown, Esq. in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to perform legal services for Washoe County in circumstances where the Washoe County District Attorney has or may have a conflict of interest.”