



Berkeley Housing Authority

1901 Fairview St., Berkeley, CA 94703
Telephone: (510) 981 5470 Fax: (510) 981 5480

Office of the Executive Director

Item 6D

ACTION CALENDAR

May 12, 2011

To: Honorable Chairperson and
Members of the Berkeley Housing Authority Board

From:  Tia M. Ingram, Executive Director

Subject: Contract with Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to exercise the one-year renewal option of the contract with the law offices of Goldfarb & Lipman, LLP extending the term of the contract through June 30, 2012 with contract authority not to exceed \$150,000 per year; total contract amount of \$450,000.

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) use a variety of models to ensure adequate legal representation. Some contract with City Attorneys' Offices, some with County Counsel, and some use private firms, and some use a combination of government attorney's and private firms.

When BHA conducted solicitation for legal services, we sought a multi-year contract, with three, one-year renewal options. Goldfarb & Lipman was selected, and has served as general counsel for the Berkeley Housing Authority for the past four years. Jennifer Bell is lead counsel, with assistance as needed from James Diamond (personnel issues) and Heather Gould. All have served the Authority well, meeting or exceeding our expectations in terms of their timeliness, their comprehensive responses to questions raised, and their understanding of the issues pertaining to housing authorities.

Jennifer Bell, in particular, has also been very helpful with the BHA large family housing disposition project, forging connections of BHA staff with individuals in other public housing authorities, and discussions with the City of Berkeley regarding various services where there are overlapping responsibilities (i.e. the conflict of interest code).

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

\$150,000 for the first option year bringing the total contract cost to \$450,000.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Tia Ingram, Executive Director, 981-5471

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 11-__

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXERCISE THE ONE-YEAR RENEWAL OPTION OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE LAW OFFICES OF GOLDFARB & LIPMAN, LLP EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012 WITH CONTRACT AUTHORITY NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 PER YEAR; TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$450,000

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Housing Authority needs expert general counsel; and

WHEREAS, the law office of Goldfarb & Lipman LLP has served BHA competently for the past four years; and

WHEREAS, the firm has demonstrated expert knowledge and experience in serving as general counsel for California-based Public Housing Authorities, and superior responsiveness on all issues; and

WHEREAS, the existing contract contains three, one-year renewal options, and this is the first such one year renewal.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute the first one-year renewal option with the Law Offices of Goldfarb & Lipman LLP.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract authority for the one-year renewal period is \$150,000, unchanged from the prior two years.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of the Berkeley Housing Authority on May 12, 2011 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest: _____
Tia M. Ingram, Secretary