

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

MARY L. SCHANNING
ROBIN A. PEDERSON
NAOMI E. SANDERS
JULIE P. WILSON
Deputy City Attorneys



Milwaukee City Hall Suite 800 • 200 East Wells Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551
Telephone: 414.286.2601 • TDD: 414.286.2025 • Fax: 414.286.8550

KATHRYN Z. BLOCK
THOMAS D. MILLER
PETER J. BLOCK
PATRICK J. MCCLAIN
ANDREA J. FOWLER
JOANNA FRACZEK
HANNAH R. JAHN
MEIGHAN M. ANGER
ALEXANDER R. CARSON
GREGORY P. KRUSE
ALEX T. MUELLER
ALEXANDER D. COSSI
KATHERINE A. HEADLEY
SHEILA THOBANI
STACY J. MILLER
JORDAN M. SCHETTLE
THERESA A. MONTAG
ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS
TRAVIS J. GRESHAM
KYLE W. BAILEY
JOSEPH M. DOBBS
WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS
CLINT B. MUCHE
TYLER M. HELSEL
ZACHARY A. HATFIELD
MEGHAN C. MCCABE
CYNTHIA HARRIS ORTEGA
OLUWASEUN CHRIS IBITOYE
KEVIN P. TODT
NATHANIEL E. ADAMSON
MATTEO REGINATO
JOSHUA B. CRONIN
Assistant City Attorneys

September 22, 2025

To the Honorable Common Council of the City of Milwaukee
Room 205 – City Hall

Re: Proposed contract for legal services to be provided by outside counsel
in *Bankruptcy Estate of Santoasha Harris v. City of Milwaukee*,
Terrence Brumirski and ABC Insurance Company, U.S. District Court
Case No. 20-C-0609, and Resolution file no. 212043.

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed please find a proposed resolution. We ask that it be introduced and referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Legislation.

In 2020, the plaintiff, Santoasha Harris, an employee of the City of Milwaukee, filed a federal complaint against the City and a former employee of the City, Terrence Brumirski, alleging violations of Title VII and § 1983 by sexual harassment and discrimination, hostile work environment, and retaliation, among other claims.

This office engaged Emile Banks & Associates, LLC, in May 2020 to take on the representation of Mr. Brumirski due to potential conflicts and adverse positions in the defenses between Mr. Brumirski and the City. That initial contract had an amount-not-exceed provision of \$20,000. In 2022, the Common Council approved an amendment to that contract increasing the amount-not-to-exceed from \$20,000 to \$75,000 in order to get the matter through the filing of summary judgment motions. (*See* CCFN 212043.)

On September 7, 2023, the District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin granted summary judgment in favor of the City and Mr. Brumirski. The plaintiff appealed. On October 9, 2023, the plaintiff filed a separate state claim arising in tort against Mr. Brumirski for the same underlying facts; this matter was held in abeyance while the federal appeal was pending. On June 24, 2025, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal by the district court. The time has now come for the plaintiff to pursue her action in the state court.

We now seek a second amendment to the contract in order to increase the amount-not-to-exceed from \$75,000 to \$105,206.61 to compensate the firm \$10,206.61 for work already

performed related to the federal appeal, and to provide an additional \$20,000 to get the state matter through initial pleadings and motions. Further amendment may be needed if the matter were to go to discovery and beyond.

The purpose and scope of the representation is to provide legal counsel to Mr. Brumirski in order to defend him against the claims brought by the plaintiff, or motions by the City, and thereby reduce risk and exposure to the City to claims for legal fees for his defense and any related potential judgment, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 895.46.

Very truly yours,

s/ROBIN PEDERSON
Deputy City Attorney

September 22, 2025
Hon. Common Council
Page 2

