

**HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**

REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS

DATE: MAY 27, 2026

**REGARDING: RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE
EXECUTION OF A MASTER LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH BARNES & THORNBURG LLP, CITYWIDE**

Requested Board Action

To approve the provision of legal services for the HRA from the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP and execution of a master legal services agreement.

Background

The law firms of Kutak Rock LLP and Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd. currently provide bond counsel and public finance legal services for the HRA in its development and redevelopment activities in consultation with the City Attorney's Office (CAO) under a Master Legal Services Agreement. To update the panel of outside law firms to perform this work, the CAO researched interest and qualifications for legal services for both the HRA and the City. The CAO evaluated qualifications and based on their evaluation and interviews of various law firms, the CAO recommends to the HRA Board of Commissioners to engage the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP to perform legal services for the HRA, at the direction of the CAO.

The CAO is hereby submitting to the HRA Board of Commissioners for approval a master legal services agreement ("Master Legal Services Agreement") with Barnes & Thornburg LLP for a duration of approximately eleven (11) months commencing February 5, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, with an optional one-year renewal period.

A copy of the Master Legal Services Agreement is on file in the office of the HRA Executive Director.

The Saint Paul City Council is also being requested to act with respect to the approval of the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP to perform legal services for the City.

Budget Action

No budget action is needed.

Recommendation:

The Executive Director recommends approval of the resolution authorizing the execution of a Master Legal Services Agreement with the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP.

Sponsored by: Chair Johnson

Staff: Jenny Wolfe, 266-6680