

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

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

**REGARDING: RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE  
EXECUTION OF A LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH  
BALLARD SPAHR LLP, CITYWIDE**

**Requested Board Action**

To approve the provision of legal services for the HRA from the law firm of Ballard Spahr LLP and execution of a master legal services agreement.

**Background**

The law firms of Ballard Spahr LLP, Barna, Guzy & Steffen, Ltd., and Kennedy & Graven, Chartered, currently provide bond counsel and related 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 Ballard Spahr 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 Ballard Spahr LLP for a duration of approximately twelve (12) months commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, 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 Ballard Spahr 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 Ballard Spahr LLP.

**Sponsored by:** Chair Noecker

**Staff:** Jenny Wolfe, 266-6680