

COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building
175-5th Street North
Second Floor Council Chamber

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

**January 11, 2024
3:00 PM**

Welcome to the City of St. Petersburg City Council meeting. The public may address City Council in person.

The public must attend the meeting in person to speak during public hearings or quasi-judicial hearings. If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting or have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 893-7448. If you are deaf/hard of hearing and require the services of an interpreter, please call our TDD number, 892-5259, or the Florida Relay Service at 711, as soon as possible. The City requests at least 72 hours advance notice, prior to the scheduled meeting, for accommodations.

To assist the City Council in conducting the City's business, we ask that you observe the following:

1. If you are speaking under the Public Hearings, Appeals or Open Forum sections of the agenda, please observe the time limits indicated on the agenda.
2. Placards and posters are not permitted in the Chamber. Applause is not permitted except in connection with Awards and Presentations.
3. Please do not address Council from your seat. If asked by Council to speak to an issue, please do so from the podium.
4. Please do not pass notes to Council during the meeting.
5. Please be courteous to other members of the audience by keeping side conversations to a minimum.
6. The Fire Code prohibits anyone from standing in the aisles or in the back of the room.
7. If other seating is available, please do not occupy the seats reserved for individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing.

The public can also attend the meeting in the following ways:

- Watch live on Channel 15 WOW!/Channel 641 Spectrum/Channel 20 Frontier FiOS
- Watch live online at www.stpete.org/TV
- Listen and participate by dialing one of the following phone numbers
 - +1 312 626 6799 or
 - +1 646 876 9923 or
 - +1 253 215 8782 or
 - +1 301 715 8592 or
 - +1 346 248 7799 or

- +1 669 900 6833 and entering webinar ID: 986 1550 7065#
- Watch, listen, and participate on your computer, mobile phone, or other device by visiting the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/98615507065>

The public can participate in the meeting by providing public comment for agenda items other than public hearings and quasi-judicial hearings in the following ways:

- If attending the Zoom meeting by computer or other device, use the “raise hand” button in the Zoom app.
- If attending the Zoom meeting by phone only, enter *9 on the phone to use the “raise hand” feature.

The “raise hand” feature in the Zoom meeting indicates your desire to speak but does not allow you to speak immediately. You must use the “raise hand” feature at the time the agenda item is addressed. All “raised hands” will be lowered after each agenda item. When it is your turn to speak, your microphone will be unmuted. At the conclusion of your comments or when you reach the three-minute limit, you will be muted. Please be advised that at all times the chair has the authority and discretion to re-order agenda items, and in the event the meeting is disrupted by violations of the rules of decorum, to accept public comment by alternate means, including by email only.

Regardless of the method of participation used, normal rules for participation apply, including the three-minute limit on comments, the requirement that any presentation materials must be submitted to the City Clerk in advance of the meeting, and the rules of decorum. Public comments must be submitted before the public comment period has closed.

A. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call.

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

B. Approval of Agenda with Additions and Deletions.

C. Consent Agenda (see attached)

Open Forum

The City Council receives public comment during Open Forum and on agenda items with limited exceptions consistent with Florida law. All issues discussed under Open Forum must be limited to issues related to the City of St. Petersburg government. If you wish to address City Council on subjects other than public hearing or quasi-judicial items listed on the agenda, please sign up with the Clerk. Only City residents, owners of property in the City, owners of businesses in the City or their employees may speak during Open Forum. If you wish to address City Council through the Zoom meeting, you must use the “raise hand” feature button in the Zoom app or enter *9 on your phone at the time the agenda item is addressed. When it is your turn to speak, you will be unmuted and asked to state your name and address. At the conclusion of your comments or when you reach the three-minute time limit, you will be muted. All “raised hands” will be lowered after each agenda item.

Regardless of the method of participation used, normal rules apply, including the three-minute time limit on comments, the requirement that any presentation materials must be submitted in advance of the meeting and the rules of decorum. If live public comment is disrupted by violations of the rules of decorum, the chair is authorized to accept public comment by alternate means, including by email only.

D. Administration of the Oath of Office to City Council Vice-Chair

E. Awards and Presentations

1. [Distinguished Citizens Award ~ Dominic Polk Jr.](#)

F. New Ordinances - (First Reading of Title and Setting of Public Hearing)

G. Reports

1. [Project Prosper](#)

H. New Business

1. [Respectfully requesting a discussion on the appointment process for both the standing and ad hoc committee members appointments to the Community Benefits Advisory Council \(CBAC\) be added to the referral item approved at the November 2nd, 2023 Council Meeting for a Joint CBAC / Committee of the Whole Meeting. \(Councilmember Gabbard\)](#)

2. [Respectfully requesting a referral to the Health, Energy, Resilience & Sustainability Committee for a report from Administration on our ISAP energy consumption, renewable goals, and progress to date. \(Councilmember Floyd\)](#)

I. Council Committee Reports

J. Legal

1. [Approving the continued retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A. as special legal counsel to perform legal services related to labor and employment matters.](#)

K. Open Forum

L. Adjournment

CONSENT



AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

MEETING AGENDA

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Note: An abbreviated listing of upcoming MEETING AGENDA Council meetings.

City Council Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Board and Commission Vacancies



Nuisance Abatement Board
2 Regular Members
((Term expires 12/31/24 and 12/31/25))

Nuisance Abatement Board
2 Alternate Members
((Term expires 8/31/24 and 12/31/24))

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS:

1. **Anyone wishing to speak must fill out a yellow card and present the card to the Clerk. All speakers must be sworn prior to presenting testimony. No cards may be submitted after the close of Public Comment. Each party and speaker is limited to the time limits set forth herein and may not give their time to another speaker or party.** Each party and speaker wishing to present handouts, photographs, presentation slides or any other materials (collectively, “Materials”) during a quasi-judicial proceeding must submit such Materials to the City Clerk no later than 24 hours in advance of the applicable public hearing. **Materials submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and may not be used.**
2. At any time during the proceeding, City Council members may ask questions of any speaker or party. The time consumed by Council Member questions and answers to such questions shall not count against the time frames allowed herein. Burden of proof: in all appeals, the Appellant bears the burden of proof; in rezoning and land use cases, the Property Owner or Applicant bears the burden of proof except in cases initiated by the City, in which event the City Administration bears the burden of proof; for all other applications, the Applicant bears the burden of proof. Waiver of Objection: at any time during the proceeding Council Members may leave the Council Chamber for short periods of time provided they continue to hear testimony by audio. If any party has an objection to a Council Member leaving the Chamber during the hearing, such objection must be made at the start of the hearing. If an objection is not made as required herein it shall be deemed to have been waived.
3. Reading of the Title of the Ordinance(s), if applicable.
4. Initial Presentation. Each party shall be allowed ten (10) minutes for their initial presentation. The order of initial presentations shall be:
 - a. Presentation by City Administration.
 - b. Presentation by the Appellant followed by the Applicant, if different. If Appellant and Applicant are different entities, then each is allowed the allotted time for each part of these procedures.
 - c. Presentation by Opponent. If anyone wishes to utilize the initial presentation time provided for an Opponent, said person shall register as an Opponent with the City Clerk at least one week prior to the scheduled public hearing or within 48 hours after the City staff report for the public hearing has been published (whichever is later). If more than one person registers to utilize the initial presentation time provided for an Opponent, the registered persons shall attempt to agree on a single representative to participate as the Opponent in the proceeding. If the persons cannot agree on a single representative, then each person (or person’s representative) shall share equally the time allotted to the Opponent for each part of these procedures. If there is an Appellant who is not the Applicant or Property Owner, then no Opponent is allowed. If a Property Owner who is not the Appellant or the Applicant opposes the Application and utilizes any part of the time available to the Property Owner to make an initial presentation, the Opponent shall not be permitted to make an initial presentation (but shall be provided an opportunity for cross-examination and rebuttal/closing).
 - d. If the Property Owner is neither the Appellant nor the Applicant, they shall be allowed the allotted time for each part of these procedures and shall have the opportunity to speak last in each part of these procedures so that they have the opportunity to address what all the interested parties have presented.
5. Public Comment. Upon conclusion of the initial presentations, members of the public may speak for not more than three (3) minutes each. Speakers shall limit their testimony to information relevant to the ordinance or application and criteria for review.

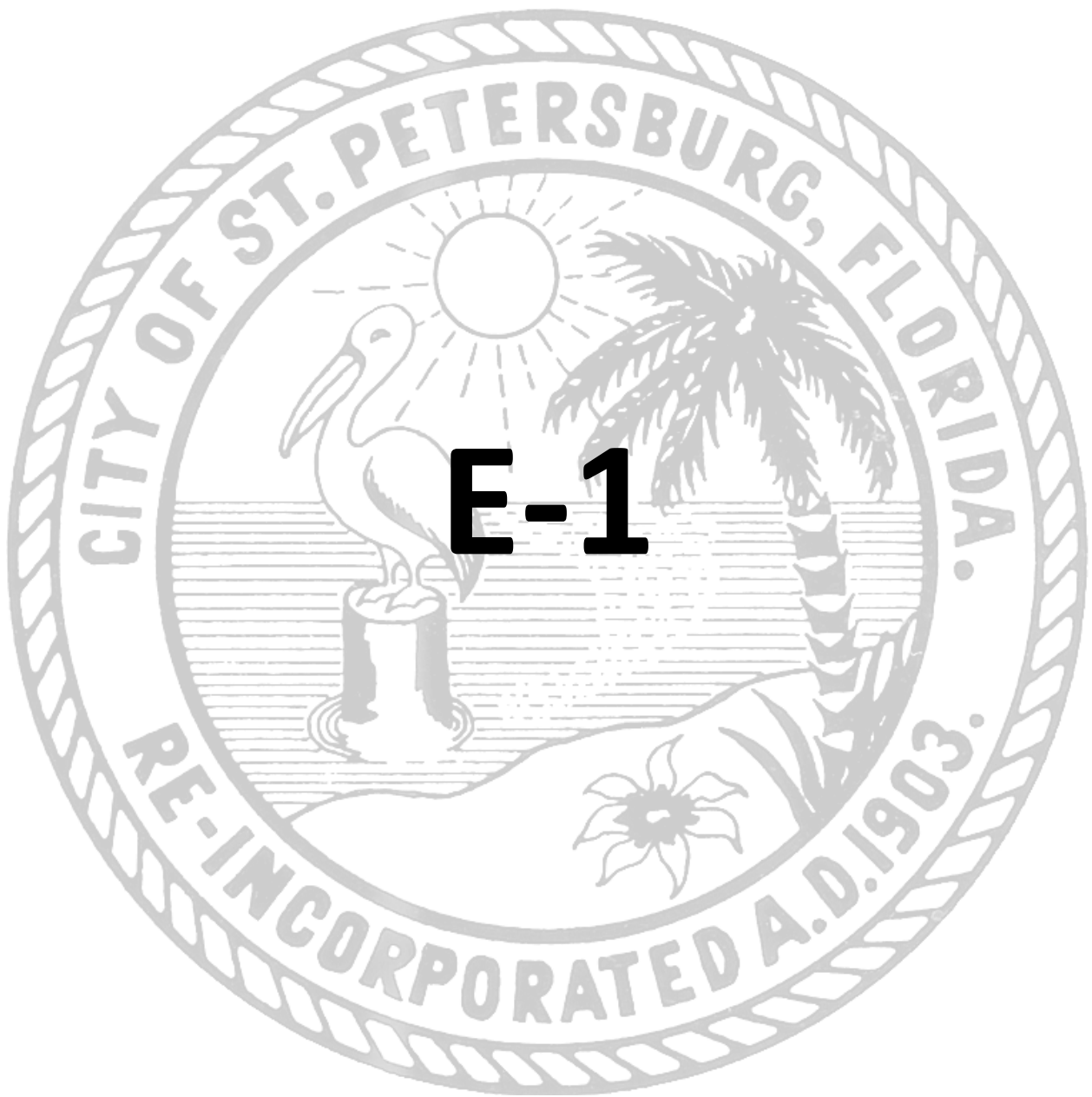
6. Cross Examination. Each party shall be allowed a total of five (5) minutes for cross examination, which includes the time consumed by both questions and answers. Each party who opposes the application may only cross examine any witness who previously testified in support of the application. Each party who supports the application may only cross examine any witness who previously testified in opposition to the application. The questioning party is not permitted to make any statements, only to ask questions that are directly related to the testimony or evidence presented. All questions shall be addressed to the Chair and then (at the discretion of the Chair) asked either by the Chair or by the party conducting the cross examination of the appropriate witness. One (1) representative of each party shall conduct the cross examination. If anyone wishes to utilize the time provided for cross examination and rebuttal as an Opponent, and no one has previously registered with the City Clerk as an Opponent, said individual shall notify the City Clerk prior to the beginning of initial presentations for the applicable public hearing. If no one gives such notice, there shall be no cross examination or rebuttal by Opponent(s). The order of cross examination shall be:

- a. Cross examination by City Administration.
- b. Cross examination by Opponents, if applicable.
- c. Cross examination by Appellant followed by Applicant, followed by Property Owner, if different.

7. Rebuttal/Closing. Each party shall have five (5) minutes to provide a closing argument and/or rebuttal. The order of rebuttal/closing shall be:

- a. Rebuttal/Closing by City Administration.
- b. Rebuttal/Closing by Opponent, if applicable.
- c. Rebuttal/Closing by Applicant followed by the Appellant, if different, followed by Property Owner, if different.

The following page(s) contain the backup material for Agenda Item: Distinguished Citizens Award ~ Dominic Polk Jr.
Please scroll down to view the backup material.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Presentation Item

DATE: December 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

SUBJECT: Mr. Dominic Polk Jr.

PRESENTER: Council Chair Deborah Figgs-Sanders

SCHEDULE FOR COUNCIL ON: January 11, 2023

The following page(s) contain the backup material for Agenda Item: Project Prosper
Please scroll down to view the backup material.



G-1

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA PRESENTATION ITEM

DATE: December 29, 2023

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

SUBJECT: Project Prosper

PRESENTER: Faye Steinhauser, *Executive Director of Project Prosper*

SCHEDULE FOR COUNCIL ON: January 11, 2024

Lisset Hanewicz
Council Member, District 4



PROJECT
PRO\$PER

Faye Steinhauser

Executive Director

www.ProjectProsper.org

info@ProjectProsper.org



Immigrants in St. Petersburg

- 2018 - more than 27,000 immigrants, 11% of pop.
 - More likely than native pop. to
 - Own their own home
 - Have an advanced degree
 - Be employed
 - Lower median individual income
- Diverse population from many areas of the world and many backgrounds

What is Project Prosper?

Mission:

To provide financial integration services and resources that empower recent refugees and immigrants to achieve financial stability and inclusion

501(c)3 nonprofit



**PROJECT
PRO\$PER**

The Problems

1. Understanding and using the US financial system; existing programs were not tailored to the unique needs of immigrants

Needs:

- Language comprehension, especially financial terms
- Cultural barriers - debt being unacceptable or avoiding interest in loans and banking
 - Role of credit in US culture - nearly everyone uses credit to buy almost anything
- Fear - banks, governments, credit, making a costly mistake
- Vulnerability to scammers and predatory lenders
- Lack life experience

The Problems

2. Full inclusion in the financial system - access to credit

Needs:

- Knowledge on how to access credit
 - Why is this important?
 - How do I access credit?
 - Being the primary on accounts
- Safe and affordable opportunities to build a credit history
 - Inability to save for a secured credit card deposit

The Responses

- Financial Literacy Program
 - Bring programming to community ESOL sites or partner facilities where clients naturally gather
- 13 courses intermediate- to advanced-level English or Spanish
 - Basic through advanced courses
- 4 courses for beginner-level English
 - Financial survival skills
- Developing e-learning courses

The Responses

- 0% interest Loan Program
 - \$2,500 max loan with a savings component
- Credit reporting to all 3 bureaus
 - No history required
- Financial coaching
- Matched savings if coaching requirement is satisfied



2023 Work in the Community

3 counties - Pinellas, Hillsborough, & Pasco
New in 2024: Manatee

132 financial literacy classes
7 sites in Pinellas County

Granted 10 loans

Funders: Pinellas Co. School Board, Banks,
United Way, individuals and foundations



Client Story

Ernesto and Liliana from
Venezuela



PROJECT
PRO\$PER

Challenges

- Community awareness
 - Challenges clients face
 - How our work addresses these challenges
- Client access
 - 2 existing sites in St. Petersburg
 - Both are in Central St. Pete
 - Connections to businesses that employ lots of immigrants (hotels, restaurants, etc.)
 - Offer lunch hour or after-hours classes as an employee benefit
 - More financially stable staff is better staff for employers*

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Make a tax-deductible donation
2. Become a volunteer financial literacy instructor
3. Become a volunteer financial mentor
4. Donate your time with other skills like translation, design, technical support, or writing



Project Prosper, Inc. is a tax-exempt organization pursuant to IRS Code 501(c)(3).
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
REGISTRATION #CH23333.

STAY CONNECTED



727.266.0816
727.538.4179



13575 58th St N, Ste 107
Clearwater, FL 33760



info@projectprosper.org



@projectprosper



@projectprosperinc



@Project_Prospers

**EDUCATING
EMPOWERING
MENTORING
SINCE 2007**

www.projectprosper.org



PROJECT
PROSPER



WE EDUCATE. WE MENTOR. WE EMPOWER.

THE PROBLEM

Economic independence is vital to long-term stability and successful integration in the US, but many immigrants come from countries with vastly different financial systems. Understanding and navigating the complexity of the U.S. financial system is an enormous task, especially when considering language barriers and cultural differences.

These unique challenges can make refugees and immigrants economically vulnerable, resulting in financial behavior that can have long-term negative consequences on their household budget and credit profile.

MISSION

To provide financial integration services and resources that empower recent refugees and immigrants in the Tampa Bay community to achieve financial stability and inclusion.



FINANCIAL EDUCATION

The Project Prosper Financial Literacy curriculum includes 13 classes on subjects like:

- Financial Institutions
- Budgeting
- Credit Cards, Scores, and Reports
- Loans and Predatory Lending
- Car Buying
- Home Buying
- Saving For Retirement
- Insurance
- Protecting Yourself Financially
- How To Pull Your Own Credit Report

0% INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

Request up to \$2500
36 Month Term Loan
Loans for One-Time Needs
Financial Mentoring
Matched Savings

FINANCIAL MENTORING

Financial Mentors assist clients that have either completed the Loan Program but need extra support, need assistance before entering the Loan Program, or need assistance entirely outside of the Loan Program for other needs.

The following page(s) contain the backup material for Agenda Item: Respectfully requesting a discussion on the appointment process for both the standing and ad hoc committee members appointments to the Community Benefits Advisory Council (CBAC) be added to the referral item approved at the November 2nd, 2023 Council Meeting for a Joint CBAC / Committee of the Whole Meeting. (Councilmember Gabbard)
Please scroll down to view the backup material.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council

DATE: December 27, 2023

COUNCIL DATE: January 11, 2024

RE: Referral to the Joint CBAC / Committee of the Whole Meeting

ACTION DESIRED:

Respectfully requesting a discussion on the appointment process for both the standing and ad hoc committee members appointments to the Community Benefits Advisory Council (CBAC) be added to the referral item approved at the November 2nd, 2023 Council Meeting for a Joint CBAC / Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Council Member Brandi Gabbard
District 2

Attachments:

- New Business Item approved at the November 2, 2023 City Council Meeting

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council

DATE: October 20, 2023

COUNCIL DATE: November 2, 2023

RE: Requesting a joint Community Benefit Advisory Committee and City Council meeting at a Committee of the Whole for a discussion on the Community Benefit Program

ACTION DESIRED:

Respectfully requesting a joint Community Benefit Advisory Committee and City Council meeting at a Committee of the Whole for discussion on the Community Benefit Program

Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Vice Chair
District 5

The following page(s) contain the backup material for Agenda Item: Respectfully requesting a referral to the Health, Energy, Resilience & Sustainability Committee for a report from Administration on our ISAP energy consumption, renewable goals, and progress to date.
(Councilmember Floyd)
Please scroll down to view the backup material.



H-2

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: **Members of City Council**

DATE: December 22, 2023

COUNCIL DATE: ~~January 4, 2023~~— Deferred to January 11, 2024

RE: Referral to the Health, Energy, Resilience, & Sustainability Committee for a report from Administration on our ISAP energy consumption, renewable goals, and progress to date

ACTION DESIRED:

Respectfully requesting a referral to the Health, Energy, Resilience & Sustainability Committee for a report from Administration on our ISAP energy consumption, renewable goals, and progress to date.

Richie Floyd
Council Member, District 8

The following page(s) contain the backup material for Agenda Item: Approving the continued retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A. as special legal counsel to perform legal services related to labor and employment matters.
Please scroll down to view the backup material.



J-1

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Chair and City Council Members

FROM: Joseph P. Patner, Executive Assistant City Attorney

DATE: Meeting of January 11, 2024

RE: Continued Retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A.

The original retainer agreement with Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A. to provide legal services regarding labor and employment matters was for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

On January 19, 2023 and July 20, 2023, due to ongoing legal costs associated with legal services regarding labor and employment matters, I recommended increasing the retainer agreement by \$75,000.00 and \$50,000, respectively. For the same reason, I am again recommending increasing the retainer agreement in the amount of \$83,213.55. The attached resolution authorizes this increase. Such fees and costs will be paid from monies available in applicable departmental budgets. To the best of my knowledge, this is the final request.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Attachment: Resolution

00713231

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-_____

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTINUED RETENTION OF JONES, HURLEY & HAND, P.A. AS SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG TO PERFORM LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT MATTERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Council approval on October 6, 2022, the City Attorney's Office retained Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A. for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2023, City Council approved the continued retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A., increasing the allocation in the amount of \$75,000; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2023, City Council approved the continued retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A., increasing the allocation in the amount of \$175,000; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney's Office recommends increasing the allocation by \$83,213.55 for a total not to exceed amount of \$258,213.55.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, that the continued retention of Jones, Hurley & Hand, P.A. as special legal counsel to the City to perform legal services related to labor and employment matters for a total not to exceed amount of \$258,213.55 is hereby approved.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved as to Form and Substance

/S/: Joseph P. Patner

City Attorney (Designee)

00713230