



# CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 2  
December 17, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Consultant Review Committee's recommendation to award a two-year agreement for general legal counsel services to Secret Wardle through December 1, 2009.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** Assistant City Manager *PA*

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:** *Chy*

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2007, City Attorney Tom Schultz sent the attached letter requesting consideration of an extension of the current 3-year contract approved by the City in November 2004. Given the number of other consultant contracts and Requests for Proposal to be reviewed (e.g., architectural façade, health benefits, traffic and general engineering consulting services, etc.) and the expiration date of the current agreement, the Consultant Review Committee did not take action on the request for an extension until their December 3, 2007 meeting.

The agreement provides for meeting attendance assignments as follows:

<b>City Council:</b>	Thomas Schultz
<b>Planning Commission:</b>	Kristin Kolb
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals:</b>	Beth Kudla

The draft agreement that it provides for a fee increase from the rates adopted in 2004 as follows:

### Existing Rates:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Partners	\$125.00
Senior Associates	\$110.00
Associates	\$105.00

### Proposed Rates:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Partners	\$130.00 (+\$5/hour from current agreement)
Senior Associates	\$120.00 (+10/hour from current agreement)
Associates	\$110.00 (+\$5/hour from current agreement)

Council will note in the letter from Mr. Schultz that several attorneys (Beth Kudla, Kristin Kolb, and Stephanie Simon Morita) will be charged at the "Senior Associate" rate even though they are Partners with the firm. The City's general fund budget for legal services in the current fiscal year is approximately \$388,000 for general legal services and \$50,000 for the Assessing Department. Last fiscal year's 2006/07 actual fees were about \$587,000. The difference from last year's budget to actual is for fees allocated to other funds (i.e., judgment trust, roads, etc.).

After discussion and review of Mr. Schultz's letter, the CRC unanimously voted to recommend a two-year agreement with Secret Wardle for general legal counsel services.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of Consultant Review Committee's recommendation to award a two-year agreement for general legal counsel services to Secret Wardle through December 1, 2009.

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Landry				
Mayor Pro Tem Capello				
Council Member Crawford				
Council Member Gatt				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Margolis				
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Staudt				