



Legislation Text

File #: 20-0432, **Version:** 1

Agenda Item Name:

Approve special attorney agreement (Sylvia H. Walbolt)

Presenter:

Sylvia E. Torres, County Attorney, 352-374-5218

Description:

Agreement with Sylvia H. Walbolt to represent County before the Florida Supreme Court in the matter of Alachua County v. Sadie Darnell, in her official capacity as Sheriff of Alachua County, Florida, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$65,000

Recommended Action:

Authorize County Manager to sign attached letter of engagement with Sylvia H. Walbolt

Prior Board Motions:

On November 12, 2019, the Board appointment of special counsel, Sylvia H. Walbolt, to represent the Board in the matter of Alachua County v. Sadie Darnell, in her official capacity as Sheriff of Alachua County, Florida.

Fiscal Consideration:

There is sufficient budget in special expense for this contract.

Background:

On May 19, 2020, the Florida Supreme Court issued an order accepting jurisdiction to hear an appeal of Alachua County v. Darnell, 1st DCA Case No. 1D18-3367; L.T. #2017-CA-521. The 1st District Court of Appeals issued an unfavorable ruling, and denied the County's Motions for Rehearing, for Rehearing En Banc, and for Certification of Question Concerning Great Public Importance. Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Order accepting jurisdiction, the County's initial brief must be served on or before June 8, 2020.

Through this contract, the County will retain Sylvia H. Walbolt, Carlton Fields (<https://www.carltonfields.com/team/w/sylvia-h-walbolt>), to represent Alachua County in this matter at \$495/hour. The contract also includes authorization for James Parker-Flynn (<<https://www.carltonfields.com/team/p/james-e-parker-flynn>>), to provide legal services to the County at \$375/hour.