



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Staff Liaison Report

Municipal Police Officers' Pension Board Meeting Date: May 13, 2026

To: Municipal Police Officers' Pension Board
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: May 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Municipal Police Officers' Pension Board Attorney Services

BACKGROUND: The Board currently retains the law firm of Sugarman, Susskind, Braswell & Herrera (SSBH) for legal counsel services related to the Police Officers' Pension Plan. The Board's assigned attorney resigned from SSBH effective February 28, 2026. As a result, the Board must determine how to proceed with legal representation to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, fiduciary responsibilities, and operational needs.

Legal counsel plays a critical role in advising the Board on statutory compliance, plan administration, fiduciary duties, and regulatory matters. Continuity, expertise, and efficiency are key considerations in evaluating available options.

DISCUSSION: The Board has three primary options for consideration:

Option 1: Remain with Sugarman, Susskind, Braswell & Herrera (SSBH)

Under this option, the Board would continue its engagement with SSBH and be assigned a new attorney from the firm. David Robinson with SSBH has assisted since February 28, 2026.

Considerations:

- Maintains continuity with the existing firm and institutional knowledge
- Established processes and familiarity with the Plan's history
- Transition to a new attorney may require a learning curve
- No change to contractual relationship

Option 2: Engage the Former Attorney at Her New Firm (Jones Walker)

The Board may choose to retain Madison Levine who previously served the Plan, now practicing with Jones Walker.

Considerations:

- Preserves continuity of individual legal counsel familiar with the Plan
- Minimizes transition time and learning curve
- May require negotiation of a new engagement agreement

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- Potential differences in billing structure or firm resources

Option 3: Utilize the Same Attorney as the General Employees' Pension Plan

The Board may consider engaging the same attorney currently serving the General Employees' Pension Plan, which is a separate legal entity.

Considerations:

- Increased operational efficiency, as both boards meet on the same day
- Consistency in legal guidance across both pension boards
- Potential cost efficiencies and streamlined coordination
- Distinct fiduciary responsibilities must still be maintained for each plan

Additional Context

- The Police Officers' Pension Plan and the General Employees' Pension Plan currently share the same actuary (Foster & Foster), investment advisor (Burgess Chambers), and third party administrator and custodian (FifthThird Bank, NA).
- Aligning legal counsel could further enhance coordination among service providers.
- Each Board remains a separate legal entity with independent fiduciary obligations.

The Board should discuss the merits of each option, including service continuity, cost considerations, efficiency, and fiduciary implications. If desired, the Board may request proposals or engagement terms from the respective firms or attorneys prior to making a final decision.

FUNDING SOURCE: The Plan funds administrative expenses from accumulated plan assets.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion and direction. Majority vote required to move forward with decision.