



City Attorney's Office

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January 4, 2013

The Honorable Ann H. Campbell, Mayor,
and Members of the City Council
of the City of Ames, Iowa

Re: Engagement of Counsel to Provide Legal Assistance on As-Needed Basis

Dear Mayor Campbell and Council Members:

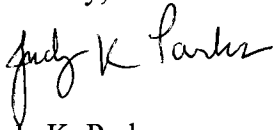
After consulting with my department staff, and in consideration of some of the large-scale and long term projects that are ongoing within the City, I am recommending that the City retain legal counsel with a general practice to be utilized on an as-needed basis over the next five to six months while we are without a City Attorney. Due to the short deadlines that we often face, and considering the complex legal issues in the areas of public improvements, contracting, personnel and labor bargaining, the City would benefit from having an additional legal resource to turn to during the times when two attorneys cannot manage the workload in a prudent and diligent manner.

Our office has experience working with the Dorsey & Whitney firm and we have always found them to be attentive, diligent, competent, and thorough. The firm specializes in the areas of public finance, civil litigation, health care, employment and administrative law. The firm is also large enough to be able to handle additional work from the City on short notice. I believe that having this firm engaged and able to handle multiple areas of the law would be far more effective than using several different firms for the various areas of law that we handle. In contacting them to explore the possibility of using their services on an 'as-needed' basis, the firm has indicated the desire to go forward on this basis and has provided an engagement letter.

Operationally, the Legal Department would anticipate that when a project is identified as appropriate for outside counsel to handle, your approval would be sought before doing so. The specific Dorsey attorney(s) could then be ascertained so that sufficient funds would be budgeted for the work they would be doing. A representative rate schedule for has been attached so you have an idea of what rates will be.

I am requesting authorization to enter into this engagement and retainer agreement with Dorsey & Whitney LLP for legal services with an initial amount of up to Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to be designated for that purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy K. Parks".

Judy K. Parks
Acting City Attorney

Dorsey & Whitney Hourly Rate Schedule

* It is important to note that Dorsey has indicated that almost all projects will be billed on a per project basis, rather than an hourly basis.

According to the firm, these are the hourly rates for the individuals who would most likely be working on City assignments.

Name	Rate per hour
Ed McIntosh	\$465
Angela Dralle	\$345
John Danos	\$340
Bill Miller	\$295
Amy Bjork	\$275
Alissa Smith	\$255
Sarah Mick	\$225