

Resolution No.: 2021-023

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

**WHEREAS**, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 ("District") was present on this date for a properly advertised, regular meeting;

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that a real necessity exists to engage special legal counsel to provide advice on, and handle, District matters including, but not limited to, litigation relating to public records requests;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has performed an investigation and determined that Attorney Henry D. H. Olinde, Jr. and the law firm of Olinde & Mercer, L.L.C. (collectively “O & M”) have significant experience representing, and consulting with, emergency service organizations and fire districts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the District and Board to engage O & M as special legal counsel to provide necessary legal services on an as-needed basis;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The foregoing recitations and findings are made part of this Resolution.
2. O & M is hereby engaged and retained as special legal counsel to the Board and District to handle (on an as-needed basis), Fire District matters including, but not limited to, public records litigation and related matters.

3. O & M's fees, which the Board finds are reasonable and in accord with the Attorney General's February 8, 2016 Maximum Hourly Fee Schedule, shall be as follows:

- (a) \$225/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 10 or more years of experience;
- (b) \$175/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 5-10 years of experience;
- (c) \$150/hour for all work performed by attorneys with 3-5 years of experience;
- (d) \$125/hour for all work performed by attorneys with less than 3 years of experience; and,
- (b) All legal work shall be billed in 1/10th hour increments.

3. In addition to the foregoing fees, the Board shall pay to O & M all reasonable costs and expenses (including, but not limited to, charges for advertising notices, copies, postage, long distance, filing fees, courier fees, legal research, travel, expert fees and court costs) associated with providing legal services to the Board.

4. The Fire Chief and O & M are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Resolution, including but not limited to complying with any and all applicable statutory requirements and obtaining approval of this Resolution by the Louisiana State Attorney General.

5. Insofar as any prior resolutions are inconsistent with this Resolution, those prior resolutions are hereby repealed and superseded.

6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately

Upon motion duly made by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the following vote (by name):

YEAS :

NAYS :

ABSENT:

**CERTIFICATE**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that I am the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 (“the Board”), and the above and foregoing Resolution was properly adopted by the Board of at a duly noticed public meeting called and held in accordance with law at Slidell, Louisiana on the 15th day of June, 2021.

**THUS, DONE AND SIGNED** at Slidell, Louisiana, this 15th day of June, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary