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MOTION

The Bureau of State Audits recently reviewed the Los Angeles City Attorney's use of outside Counsel. The audit states that in the six years ending with the 2004-05 fiscal year the amount spent on outside counsel has nearly doubled, shooting up from \$17.5 million to \$31.9 million.

The use of outside counsel is a valuable tool that allows the City to get the best legal representation available on complex issues that arise infrequently. However, the costs associated with hiring outside counsel demand that the City have policies, practices and procedures in place to ensure that money is not wasted.

The City's goal in utilizing outside counsel should be to use tax dollars as efficiently as possible to provide the City with adequate legal representation without overpaying. The City should also investigate the degree to which work assigned to outside firms is of recurring nature such that internal resources may be more cost effective.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CLA and CAO report back in 45 days to the Budget and Finance Committee on the use of outside counsel by the City Attorney's office.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney provide the relevant documentation to the CLA and CAO to complete the analysis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report specify whether the work assigned to the outside firms is of recurring nature such that internal resources may be more cost effective.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report address which firms are receiving the contracts, how much each firm has been paid, what percentage of the total amount spent on outside counsel each firm has received, what specialties are being retained, how many hours are being billed to each specialty and how much money is being spent on each specialty.

PRESENTED BY Bill Rosendahl
Bill Rosendahl
Councilman, 11th District

SECONDED BY Bernard C. Parker

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