

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-315

2  
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4  
5 DATE November 18, 2024 COMMITTEE Rules

6  
7 **A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of professional service**  
8 **agreements with Roetzel & Andress, LPA, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, toward**  
9 **the costs of legal representation and services on behalf of the County, in the matter of**  
10 **Antonio Williamson v. Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, et al., for the Executive and the Sheriff, and**  
11 **declaring an emergency.**

12  
13 WHEREAS, this lawsuit, Antonio Williamson v. Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, et al., Case No.  
14 5-21-cv-00565-JRA, before Judge John R. Adams in the United States District Court, Northern  
15 District of Ohio (the “Lawsuit”), arises out of an incident concerning former Lieutenant Antonio  
16 Williamson that is alleged to have occurred on March 19, 2017 and the subsequent criminal  
17 prosecution of Mr. Williamson, State of Ohio v. Antonio Williamson, Case No. CV-2017-03-  
18 1047, before Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands in the County of Summit Court of Common Pleas;  
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson brought suit against the County alleging among other  
22 counts, malicious and selective prosecution, civil rights violations, and discrimination; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, due to multiple allegations made against both the County and the Sheriff’s  
25 Office, the Executive retained legal counsel with Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., L.P.A. and  
26 Roetzel & Andress, LPA to provide legal representation and services on behalf of the County in  
27 the Lawsuit; and

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29 WHEREAS, this Council previously adopted Resolution 2021-247 which confirmed the  
30 award by the Board of Control of professional service agreements with Mazanec, Raskin &  
31 Ryder Co., L.P.A., in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, and Roetzel & Andress, LPA, in an  
32 amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.00, toward the costs  
33 of legal representation and services on behalf of the County in the Lawsuit; and

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35 WHEREAS, due to the criminal matter not being resolved until May of 2023 and the  
36 voluminous and sometimes contentious nature of the discovery involved in the civil matter, the  
37 Executive wishes to continue to engage Roetzel & Andress, LPA in the defense of this matter;  
38 and

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40 WHEREAS, the Board of Control, at its meeting held November 20, 2024, awarded a  
41 professional service agreement with Roetzel & Andress, LPA, which as a Professional Service  
42 Contract is exempt for competitive bidding pursuant to Section 177.08 of the Codified  
43 Ordinances of the County of Summit, toward the costs of continued legal representation and  
44 services on behalf of the County in the Lawsuit, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, subject  
45 to confirmation by this Council; and

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47 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,  
48 that the aforementioned professional service agreement with Roetzel & Andress, LPA is  
49 necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit;

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51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State  
52 of Ohio, that:

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2024-315

2 PAGE TWO

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4 SECTION 1

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6 The award by the Board of Control of professional service agreement with Roetzel &  
7 Andress, LPA, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, toward the costs of continued legal  
8 representation and services on behalf of the County, in the matter of Antonio Williamson v.  
9 Sheriff Kandy Fatheree, et al., Case No. 5-21-cv-00565-JRA, before Judge John R. Adams in the  
10 United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio (the "Lawsuit") is hereby confirmed, and  
11 the Executive is hereby authorized to execute said professional service agreement and any other  
12 necessary related documents.

13

14 SECTION 2

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16 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and  
17 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit and for the further purpose of immediately  
18 obtaining continued legal representation and services by legal counsel in the Lawsuit.

19

20 SECTION 3

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22 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take  
23 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take  
24 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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26 SECTION 4

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28 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating  
29 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all  
30 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,  
31 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section  
32 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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35 INTRODUCED November 18, 2024

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37 ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

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41 CLERK OF COUNCIL

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

43 APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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47 EXECUTIVE

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49 ENACTED EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_