



## **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
Video Teleconference

### **The Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Finance & Audit Committee**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, November 18, 2021  
1:32PM

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date / Time: November 18, 2021 / 1:32PM

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Bob Wunderlich, Councilmember Julian A. Gold M.D., City Treasurer Howard Fisher, Assistant Director of Finance Tatiana Szerwinski, Accounting Manager Roza Jakabffy, Deputy City Manager Gabriella Yap, Planning and Research Analyst Sivan Levin, and Executive Assistant Vanessa Catullo

#### **1) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.

None.

#### **2) RESOLUTION OF THE BEVERLY HILLS CITY COUNCIL LIAISON / AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Authorizing public meetings to be held via teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and making findings and determination regarding the same.

New legislation (AB 361) was recently adopted allowing the Audit and Finance Committee to continue virtual meetings during the COVID-19 declared emergency subject to certain conditions and the proposed resolution implements the necessary requirements. These special requirements give the City greater flexibility to conduct teleconference meetings when there is a declared state of emergency and either social distancing is mandated or recommended, or an in-person meeting would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

The resolution has been approved by the Committee.

#### **3) SUMMARY AND EVALUATION OF BIDS FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES**

The City released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on July 22, 2021 because the current audit contract had expired. The City received eight proposals in response to the RFP that closed on August 23, 2021.



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On September 13, a panel of Finance Department staff (Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Finance, Financial Planning and Research Analyst, Purchasing Manager, and Accounting Manager) met to discuss the submissions and their evaluations of each bid. After the discussion, four candidate audit firms were selected for interviews held on November 1, 2021 – Clifton Larsen Allen LLP, The Pun Group LLP, Crowe LLP, and Lance, Soll & Lunghard LLP.

After carefully evaluating each candidate, the panel selected Crowe LLP as the firm to recommend. Due to the firm's size and resources, municipal audit experience, quality of staff and management support, and technological resources. Their familiarity with the City and having already reviewed particular risk areas during their past audits will enable the firm to probe further and assess and audit new risk areas, which is beneficial to the City. As a result of past audits, the firm did note internal control deficiencies and made recommendations for strengthening system access controls and segregation of duties, which were implemented and ultimately strengthened City controls and operations. The firm is also familiar with management's goals of continuing toward new Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) best practices in aiming to issue the City's financial statements within 90-120 days after fiscal year and is committed to assisting management with getting closer to this goal.

The recommendation to select Crowe LLP for professional audit services for a five-year agreement with two optional one-year extensions has been approved by the Committee with the added requirement that engagement partners be switched for the new contract and that if this cannot be accommodated, that this item be brought back to the Committee for further discussion.

#### **4) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION**

None.

#### **5) ADJOURNMENT:**

Date / Time: November 18, 2021 / 1:58PM