



COMMISSIONERS COURT  
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 1 OF 4

DATE: 09/04/2024

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF ATTORNEY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
ENGAGING BLAIES & HIGHTOWER, LLP AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL  
RE: DEFENSE OF TARRANT COUNTY EMPLOYEE ELIJAH  
MAREZ IN A LAWSUIT ENTITLED ANTHONY R. JOHNSON, SR.,  
ET AL. V. TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS, ET AL., ACTION NO. 4:24-  
CV-686-O**

**\*\*\* CONSENT AGENDA \*\*\***

**COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court approve the Attorney Employment Agreement engaging Blaies & Hightower, LLP as outside counsel for Tarrant County employee Elijah Marez.

**BACKGROUND**

Tarrant County employee Elijah Marez has been sued in an inmate civil rights case. Pursuant to Local Government Code Section 157.901, it is necessary for outside counsel to be employed to represent this individual in the lawsuit entitled Anthony R. Johnson, Sr., et al. v. Tarrant County, Texas, et al., Civil Action No. 4:24-cv-686-O in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division.

With approval of this action, Tarrant County employee Elijah Marez will have representation in this federal suit.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The fiscal impact associated with this action is unknown at this time, however, the law firm is to use all reasonable means to resolve this matter at a total cost of no more than \$30,000.00, subject to further court approval. Funding is available in 61500-2024 Self-Insurance Fund/191200000 Self Insurance/585071 Litigation Expense.

SUBMITTED BY:	Criminal District Attorney	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Polly S Maxwell
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