

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: A copy of this letter has been submitted to the City Attorney.

DAVID P. MASTAGNI
JOHN R. HOLSTEDT
CRAIG E. JOHNSON
BRIAN A. DIXON
STEVEN W. WELTY
STUART C. WOO
DAVID E. MASTAGNI
PHILLIP R.A. MASTAGNI
KATHLEEN N. MASTAGNI STORM
SEAN D. HOWELL
SEAN D. CURRIN
KENNETH E. BACON
GRANT A. WINTER
JOSHUA A. OLANDER
HOWARD A. LIBERMAN
DOUGLAS T. GREEN
MELISSA M. THOM
JONATHAN D. CHAR
VANESSA A. MUNOS
JOSEPH A. HOFFMANN
MICHAEL P. R. REED

Sacramento Office
1912 I Street
Sacramento, CA
95811
(916) 446-4692
Fax (916) 447-4614
Tax ID #94-2678460



All Correspondence to Sacramento Office
www.mastagni.com

Rancho Cucamonga Office
(909) 477-8920

Chico: (530) 895-3836
San Jose: (408) 292-4802
Inglewood: (213) 640-3529

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MARIANO CISNEROS

March 3, 2026

Via Electronic Mail ONLY

Barak Vaughn, Esq.
Managing Director, Business, Finance and Operations
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
200 North Main Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012
Email: barak.vaughn@lacity.org

**Re: Objection to Violation of California Government Code § 3504.1; Demand for
Statutory Notice and Compliance Concerning Proposed Contracts to New
Law Firms and Appropriation for Existing Contract C-204152 with Nathan
& Kamionski**

Dear Mr. Vaughn:

LACAA writes to object to the City's proposed action to approve contracts with various new law firms, appropriate additional funding for existing contract C-204152 with Nathan & Kamionski, and to demand immediate compliance with California Government Code § 3504.1. The City Attorney's Office must provide at least 45 days' written notice to a recognized employee organization before renewing or extending an existing contract for services within the scope of represented job classifications. The proposed amendment here would approve numerous contracts, which qualifies as "renewing or extending an existing contract[s]" within the meaning of the statute. Further, they are to assist with police defense litigation, services clearly "within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization." To date, no notice has been provided to LACAA.

The City Attorney's February 17, 2026, report requests authority to approve a contract with Burke Williams & Sorensen, Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley, Orbach Huff & Henderson, Reily & Jeffery or outside counsel assistance with police defense litigation. Additionally, the report requests authority to approve a contract with Jones Mayer Law, for outside counsel assistance with police defense litigation. Lastly, the report requests permission to approve a contract appropriation for C-204152 with Nathan & Kamionski and expand the scope of that contract to include outside counsel assistance with police defense litigation.

The \$400,000 in contracts and appropriation are proposed to be transferred to Fund 100, Department No. 12, Account No. 009301 Outside Counsel. The proposals here would renew or extend contracts for services within the scope of the employee organization (here, LACAA) within the meaning of § 3504.1, thus triggering the statute's 45-day written notice requirement absent a valid exception.

Section 3504.1 took effect January 1, 2026, and applies to post-effective-date actions such as renewals, extensions, or amendments that enable additional services. The City's contemplated proposal occurs after the effective date and, absent an applicable exception, triggers the statute's 45-day written notice requirement to LACAA. LACAA never received the requisite written notice specifying the contract's duration, scope, cost, draft solicitation, and necessity. Routine continuity concerns in ongoing court proceedings do not constitute exigency and the City has not even provided truncated notice. Proceeding without notice is a clear statutory violation and risks avoidable disruption, cost, and labor-relations harm. These new contracts appear to be new requests not tied to any particular case. The meager sum of \$25,000 is unlikely to provide much return and appear to be starting points for additional funding requests.

To mitigate the violation of section 3504.1, LACAA demands the following:

1. Immediate issuance of the required 45 days' written notice under Government Code § 3504.1 to LACAA, including: (a) contract duration; (b) scope of services; (c) cost and funding source; (d) draft solicitation or contract amendment; and (e) statement of necessity.
2. Written acknowledgment from the City that section 3504.1 applies to the proposed amendment and that the City will comply going forward, and refrain from approving or implementing the amendment until the 45-day notice period has run, absent a properly substantiated emergency or exigent circumstance and provision of as much notice as practicable.
3. Confirmation that the City will look to the Deputy City Attorneys assigned to the Police Litigation Unit and to those who are already supervising existing outside counsel.

Please provide the above notice and acknowledgments within five (5) business days, and advise whether the City intends to pause any approval or implementation of the proposed amendment pending full compliance with § 3504.1. LACAA reserves all rights and remedies.

Barak Vaughn, Esq.
Re: Objection to Violation of California Government Code § 3504.1
March 3, 2026
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We remain available to meet and confer over this matter.

Sincerely,

MASTAGNI HOLSTEDT, A.P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mendel Schochet', with a stylized circular flourish at the end.

MENDEL SCHOCHET
Attorney at Law