

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to a conflict of waiver request to allow Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP to assist in the litigation entitled Kristin Crowley v. City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) Case No. 26STCV05669, and Kristin Crowley v. Karen Bass, LASC Case No. 26STCV19765.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE the City Attorney to execute a conflict of interest waiver to allow the law firm of Coblenz Patch Duffy & Bass, LLP (Firm), already approved by the City Council as outside counsel, to assist in the defense of both the City of Los Angeles (City) and Mayor Karen Bass, jointly, in the litigation entitled Kristin Crowley v. City of Los Angeles, LASC Case No. 26STCV05669, and Kristin Crowley v. Karen Bass, LASC Case No. 26STCV19765 (collectively, the Crowley Litigation), pursuant to the Firm's duty under Rule 1.7 of the California Rules of Professional Conduct.
2. NOTE and FILE the City Attorney report dated August 5, 2026, attached to the Council file.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the City Attorney. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

[The City Council may recess to Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), to confer with its legal counsel to discuss the aforementioned litigation.]

SUMMARY

At its meeting held on September 1, 2026, your Budget and Finance Committee considered the City Attorney reports, dated August 5, 2026 and August 18, 2026, relative to authorizing the conflict of interest waiver to allow the Firm already retained as outside counsel to assist in the joint defense of the City and Mayor Bass in the Crowley Litigation. The Firm submitted a request for a conflict of interest waiver, pursuant to its duty under Rule 1.7 of the California Rules of Professional Conduct, due to its current representation of E. & J. Gallo in negotiations with the City's agent, SMG, to enter into an advertising sponsorship agreement for the Greek Theatre owned by the City (Existing Representation). The City Attorney's Office has determined that the Firm can represent the City in the Crowley Litigation as the Firm's Existing Representation is unrelated to the Crowley Litigation, and the Firm will not be negotiating directly with the City in its Existing Representation. After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendation contained in the City Attorney report dated August 18, 2026, and to note and file the City Attorney report dated August 5, 2026, in Open Session, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
YAROSLAVSKY:	ABSENT
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
HUTT:	YES
McOSKER:	YES
HERNANDEZ:	YES