



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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1/12/2023

As Commissioner-in-Charge of the Office of Government Relations, I, Mayor Ted Wheeler, hereby declare that an emergency exists and under Portland City Code (PCC) 5.68 and procedures outlined in 5.33.130 I am authorizing the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) to execute a contract with Thorn Run Partners for representation for the City of Portland at the Oregon State Legislature and with the executive office of the Oregon Governor for an amount not to exceed \$360,000 for a period of two years.

Thorn Run Partners will be representing the City of Portland on a variety of issues, including, but not limited to:

- Direct Funding for Cities to Address Homelessness (OMA Homelessness Taskforce)
- Accelerate the Development of Affordable and Workforce Housing
- Expand DPSST Capacity
- Address the Public Defender Crisis
- Expedient Distribution of Measure 110 Grant Funding
- Amend Civil Commitment Statutes
- Fast-track the Behavioral Health Emergency Coordination Network (BHECN) Project and Establishing a Meth Stabilization Center in Portland

The State Team within the Office of Government Relations (OGR) had a sudden and acute staffing shortage that we anticipate will progress for a period up to two years. The representation work the OGR State Team is responsible for is vital to the City's efforts to humanely and effectively address homelessness and improve public safety within the City of Portland as well as continue operations for various City bureaus.

In searching for an appropriate lobbying firm, my office worked with leadership within the Office of Government Relations to reach out to and meet with three lobbying firms. After meeting with each of the three companies, we selected Thorn Run due to their understanding of the City's priorities, familiarity lobbying for the outcomes the City needs, and their firm's capacity to take on the portfolio.

I intend to bring this item to Council during the next available Council session.