

MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa Agnor, City Manager  
From: Deborah Manuel, Acting City Secretary/Finance Director  
Subject: Contract for Collection of Delinquent Municipal Court Fines and Fees  
Date: February 2, 2016

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Attached is a contract with McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. from Round Rock, TX for collection of delinquent municipal court fines and fees. Todd Fitts, City Attorney has reviewed and approved the contract. Michael Westring, Court Administrator/Compliance Manager recommends that we enter into this contract to improve the collections of delinquent fines and fees.

Michael Westring, Court Administrator/Compliance Manager and a representative from McCreary, Veselka, Bragg and Allen, P.C. will be at the meeting if there are any questions regarding the contract.

I recommend approval of this contract.

**CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION  
OF  
DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL COURT FINES AND FEES**

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HARRISON

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THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into by and between the **CITY OF MARSHALL, TEXAS**, acting herein by and through its governing body, hereinafter styled, "City", and **McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG AND ALLEN, P.C.**, hereinafter styled "MVBA".

**I.**

The City agrees to retain and does hereby retain MVBA to provide legal services related to the enforcement of the collection of delinquent municipal court fines, fees, court costs, restitution, debts and accounts receivable and other amounts in accordance with Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (hereinafter referred to in the agreement as "Fines and Fees").

**II.**

For purposes of this contract all Fines and Fees shall be referred to MVBA when determined to be delinquent as provided for in Article 103.0031, Code of Criminal Procedure.

At least once each month on a date or dates agreed upon by the parties, the City will provide MVBA with copies of, or access to, the information and documentation necessary to collect the Fines and Fees that are subject to this contract. The City shall furnish the information to MVBA by electronic transmission or magnetic medium.

**III.**

MVBA shall forward to the City all cashier's checks or money orders received by MVBA made payable to the City and any correspondence from defendants. Cashier's checks or money orders received by MVBA which are made payable to MVBA will be deposited daily into the MVBA Trust Account. MVBA may collect the amount due from the defendant by credit card or electronic draft which funds shall be deposited into the MVBA Trust Account. MVBA shall remit to the City, weekly, all funds deposited into the MVBA Trust Account which pay the entire balance of a fines and fees account, along with an invoice detailing the docket number, name of defendant, amount paid by the defendant to MVBA or directly to the City and the MVBA fee percentage and fees earned for each case. The remittance from MVBA to the City shall include the fees earned by MVBA on the fines and fees collected.

The City shall be responsible for the posting to the records of the City the payment of all fines and fees and accounts receivable collected pursuant to this contract.

#### IV.

MVBA shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from and against all liabilities, losses and/or costs arising from claims for damages, or suits for losses or damages, including reasonable costs and attorney's fees, which may arise as a result of MVBA's performance of the services described in this Contract. The indemnity provision of this Contract shall have no application to any claim or demand which results from the sole negligence or fault of the City, its officers, agents, employees or contractors. And furthermore, in the event of joint and/or shared negligence or fault of the City and MVBA, responsibility and indemnity, if any, shall be apportioned in accordance with Texas law and without waiving any defenses of either party. The provisions of this paragraph are intended for the sole benefit of the parties hereto and are not intended to create or grant any right, contractual or otherwise, to any other persons or entities.

#### V.

For the collection of Fines and Fees, the City agrees to pay to MVBA, as compensation for the legal services rendered the following fees:

1. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred before June 18, 2003, there is no fee due (0%) MVBA on the amount collected by the Court on those cases.
2. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Adjudicated Offenses regardless of the date of the offense, and against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred on or after June 18, 2003, a fee of thirty percent (30%) of the amount of the Fines and Fees collected by the Court as provided by Article 103.0031 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
3. In the event any case is disposed of by acquittal or dismissal, or if the fine, costs and/or fees are discharged through performance of community service, credit for jail time served, the discretionary removal of a collection fee by the Court or pursuant to §45.0491 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, no compensation shall be paid to MVBA by the City.

All compensation due to MVBA shall become the property of MVBA at the time of payment of the fines and fees by the defendant. The City shall pay to MVBA said compensation on a monthly basis by check.

#### VI.

MVBA reserves the right to return to the City all accounts not collected within one (1) year of referral by the City, or identified as being in bankruptcy. Upon return of these accounts, neither party will have any obligation to the other party to this contract.

## VII.

The initial term of this contract is three years, beginning on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 and shall automatically renew on the anniversary date and continue in full force and effect thereafter from year to year for additional twelve month periods on the same terms and conditions unless either party delivers written "Notice of Termination of Contract" to the other party of its intent to terminate this contract at least sixty (60) days prior to each anniversary date of this contract.

In the event that the City terminates this contract, MVBA shall be entitled to continue its collection activity on all accounts previously referred to MVBA for six (6) months from the date of receipt of the "Notice of Termination of Contract" and to payment of its fee, pursuant to Paragraph V of this contract for all amounts collected on accounts referred to MVBA. The City may, at its discretion, refer additional accounts to MVBA after notice of termination has been received by MVBA. At the end of the six (6) month period, all accounts shall be returned to the City by MVBA.

## VIII.

For purposes of sending notice under the term of this contract, all notices from the City shall be sent to MVBA by certified United States mail to the following address:

McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C.  
Attention: Harvey M. Allen  
P.O. Box 1310  
Round Rock, Texas 78680-1310

or delivered by hand or by courier, and addressed to: 700 Jeffrey Way, Suite 100, Round Rock, Texas 78664-2425. All notices to the City shall be sent by certified United States mail or delivered by hand or courier, to the following address:

City of Marshall, Texas  
Attention: City Manager  
401 S. Alamo Blvd.  
Marshall, Texas 75670

## IX.

This contract is made and is to be interpreted under the laws of the State of Texas.

In the event that any provision(s) of this contract shall for any reason be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that provision(s) shall not affect any other provision(s) of this contract, and it shall further be construed as if the invalid or unenforceable provision(s) had never been a part of this contract.

X.

In consideration of the terms and compensation herein stated, MVBA hereby agrees to undertake performance of said contract as set forth above.

The City has authorized by order heretofore passed and duly recorded in its minutes the chief executive officer to execute this contract.

This contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart shall be deemed an original for all purposes. Signed facsimiles shall be binding and enforceable.

WITNESS the signatures of all parties hereto this, the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2016.

**CITY OF MARSHALL, TEXAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG & ALLEN, P.C.**



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M. Elizabeth Vaughn  
Attorney at Law