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Attorneys and  
Counselors at Law

January 22, 2018

Mayor James Diossa  
City of Central Falls  
580 Broad Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863

Eva-Marie Mancuso \*\*+  
Sean P. Feeney \*\*\*

VIA EMAIL ONLY-jdiossa@centralfallsri.us

Re: Opioid Litigation

Dear Mayor Diossa:

Enclosed please find the executed Legal Services Agreement regarding the above-mentioned matter.

If you should have any questions, kindly contact Attorney Mancuso at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Sarah G. Gaulin  
Assistant to EVA-MARIE MANCUSO

/sgg  
Enclosure

+ Licensed in RI and MA

\*\* Licensed in RI, IL and WI

Board Certified by National Board of Trial Advocacy, Civil Trial Law

## LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

RE: City of Central Falls, Rhode Island civil suit against those legally responsible for the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and damages caused thereby.

The City of Central Falls, Rhode Island (hereinafter "CLIENT") hereby retains outside counsel, pursuant to the Rhode Island Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, on a contingent fee basis, to pursue all civil remedies against those in the chain of distribution of prescription opiates responsible for the opioid epidemic which is plaguing Central Falls, Rhode Island, including, but not limited to, filing a claim for public nuisance to abate the damages caused thereby. CLIENT consents to the participation of the following firms (hereinafter "FIRMS"):

HAMEL, WAXLER, ALLEN & COLLINS  
395 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

THE LAW OFFICE OF LUCAS MAGAZINE, PLLC  
8606 Government Drive  
New Port Richey, Florida

BARON & BUDD, PC  
3102 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 1100  
Dallas, Texas

LEVIN, PAPANTONIO, THOMAS, MITCHELL, RAFFERTY & PROCTOR, PA  
316 South Baylen Street  
Pensacola, Florida

GREENE, KETCHUM, FARRELL, BAILEY & TWEEL, LLP  
419 11th Street  
Huntington, West Virginia

HILL PETERSON CARPER BEE & DEITZLER PLLC  
500 Tracy Way  
Charleston, West Virginia

MCHUGH FULLER LAW GROUP  
97 Elias Whiddon Road  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

POWELL & MAJESTRO, PLLC  
405 Capitol Street, P-1200  
Charleston, West Virginia

In consideration, CLIENT agrees to pay thirty percent (30%) of the total recovery (gross) in favor of the CLIENT as an attorney fee whether the claim is resolved by compromise, settlement, or trial and verdict (and appeal). The gross recovery shall be calculated on the amount obtained before the deduction of costs and expenses. Total fees and expenses shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the gross recovery. CLIENT grants the Firm an interest in a fee based on the gross recovery. If a court awards attorneys' fees, the Firm shall receive the "greater of" the gross recovery-based contingent fee or the attorneys' fees awarded. **There is no fee if there is no recovery.**

The FIRMS shall advance all necessary litigation expenses necessary to prosecute these claims. All such litigation expenses, including the reasonable internal costs of electronically stored information (ESI) and electronic discovery generally or the direct costs incurred from any outside contractor for those services, will be deducted from any recovery after the contingent fee is calculated. **There is no reimbursement of litigation expenses if there is no recovery.**

The CLIENT acknowledges this fee is reasonable given the time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly, the likelihood this employment will preclude other employment by the Firm, the fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services, the anticipated (contingent) litigation expenses and the anticipated results obtained, the experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services and the fact that the fee is contingent upon a successful recovery.

This litigation is intended to address a significant problem in the community. The litigation focuses on the wholesale distributors and manufacturers of opioids and their role in the diversion of millions of prescription opiates into the illicit market which has resulted in opioid addiction, abuse, morbidity and mortality. There is no easy solution and no precedent for such an action against this sector of the industry. Many of the facts of the case are locked behind closed doors. The billion-dollar industry denies liability. The litigation will be very expensive and the litigation expenses will be advanced by the Firm with reimbursement contingent upon a successful recovery. The outcome is uncertain, as is all civil litigation, with compensation contingent upon a successful recovery. Consequently, there must be a clear understanding between the CLIENT and the FIRMS regarding the definition of a "successful recovery."

The Firm intends to present a damage model designed to abate the public health and safety crisis. This damage model may take the form of money damages and/or equitable remedies (e.g., an abatement fund). The purpose of the lawsuit is to seek reimbursement of the costs incurred in the past fighting the opioid epidemic and/or recover the funds necessary to abate the health and safety crisis caused by the unlawful conduct of the wholesale distributors and manufacturers of opioids. The CLIENT agrees to compensate the Firm, contingent upon prevailing, by paying 30% of any settlement/resolution/judgment, in favor of the CLIENT, whether it takes the form of monetary damages or equitable relief. For instance, if the remedy is in the form of monetary damages, CLIENT agrees to pay 30% of the gross amount to Firm as compensation and then reimburse the reasonable litigation expenses. If the remedy is in the form of equitable relief (e.g., abatement fund), CLIENT agrees to pay 30% of the gross value of the equitable relief to the Firm as compensation and then reimburse the reasonable litigation expenses. To be clear, the Firm shall not be paid nor receive reimbursement from public funds

unless required by law. However, any judgment arising from successful prosecution of the case, or any consideration arising from a settlement of the matter, whether monetary or equitable, shall not be considered public funds for purposes of calculating the contingent fee unless required by law. Under no circumstances shall the CLIENT be obligated to pay any attorneys fee or any litigation expenses except from moneys expended by defendant(s) pursuant to the resolution of the CLIENT's claims. If the defendant(s) expend their own resources to abate the public health and safety crisis in exchange for a release of liability, then the Firm will be paid the designated contingent fee from the resources expended by the defendant(s). CLIENT acknowledges this is a necessary condition required by the Firm to dedicate their time and invest their resources on a contingent basis to this enormous project. If the defendant(s) negotiate a release of liability, then the Firm should be compensated based upon the consideration offered to induce the dismissal of the lawsuit.

The division of fees, expenses and labor between the FIRMS will be decided by private agreement between the law firms and subject to approval by the CLIENT. Any division of fees will be governed by the Rhode Island Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct including: (1) the division of fees is in proportion to the services performed by each lawyer or each lawyer assumes joint responsibility for the representation of the CLIENT in writing; (2) the CLIENT is advised of the share that each lawyer is to receive and does not object to the participation of all the lawyers involved; and (3) the total fee is reasonable.

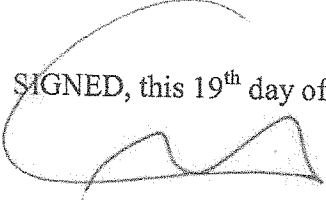
The FIRMS shall appoint a contact person to keep the CLIENT reasonably informed about the status of the matter in a manner deemed appropriate by the CLIENT. The CLIENT at all times shall retain the authority to decide the disposition of the case and personally oversee and maintain absolute control of the litigation.

The City Solicitor of the City of Central Falls shall enter his or her appearance in this litigation and shall be involved with and receive regular updates on the litigation.

Upon conclusion of this matter, the FIRMS shall provide the CLIENT with a written statement stating the outcome of the matter and, if there is a recovery, showing the remittance to the client and the method of its determination. The closing statement shall specify the manner in which the compensation was determined under the agreement, any costs and expenses deducted by the lawyer from the judgment or settlement involved, and, if applicable, the actual division of the lawyers' fees with a lawyer not in the same firm, as required in Rule 1.5 of the Rhode Island Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. The closing statement shall be signed by the CLIENT and each attorney among whom the fee is being divided.

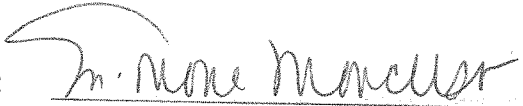
Nothing in this Agreement and nothing in the FIRMS' statement to the CLIENT may be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of this matter. The FIRMS make no such promises or guarantees. FIRMS' comments about the outcome of this matter are expressions of opinion only and the FIRMS make no guarantee as to the outcome of any litigation, settlement or trial proceedings.

SIGNED, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.




James Diossa  
Mayor  
City of Central Falls  
580 Broad Street  
Central Falls, RI 02863

Accepted:

By:   
Eva-Marie Mancuso, Esq., Hamel, Waxler, Allen & Collins

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By:   
Archie Lamb, Esq., Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, Rafferty & Proctor, PA

Date: 1/22/18