

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Special Board Meeting

August 6, 2020

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO
THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, The Library Administration has identified the need to retain outside counsel to assist the Library in providing legal services in the areas of real estate, environmental, and construction law, which will be needed as the Library acquires real estate for the construction and expansion of branches, engages a second construction manager, and administers its contracts with its construction manager and architects; and

WHEREAS, The Library sought and received proposals for the provision of legal services from the following four law firms, each of which have practices in the areas of real estate, environmental, and construction law: 1) Bricker & Eckler LLP; 2) Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; 3) Roetzel & Andress; and 4) Thompson Hine LLP; and

WHEREAS, The Library formed a selection committee to evaluate each firm's proposal and to conduct interviews with the individual firms, and the committee found Bricker & Eckler LLP to be the top-ranked firm because it not only offered the best value, but has extensive experience working with public libraries, including the Cleveland Public Library, and has a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion consistent with that of the Library; and

WHEREAS, Bricker & Eckler LLP has proposed to provide the above-described services at discounted hourly rates of \$350 for partners, \$330 for senior associates and senior counsel; \$250 - \$325 for associates; and \$240 for paralegals. The Library Administration finds Bricker & Eckler's rates to be fair and reasonable; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Trustees hereby authorizes the Executive Director, CEO or the Chief Legal Officer to enter into an agreement to engage the services of Bricker & Eckler LLP to provide legal services in connection with the Facilities Master Plan at the hourly rates set forth in this Resolution, which expenditure shall be charged to Construction—Tax Exempt fund account 402xxx05-55300 (Construction/Improvements), where xxx = branch/department, and requires that the Fiscal Officer provide a report to the Board of Library Trustees of fees paid to Bricker & Eckler on a quarterly basis.