

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finance Committee

March 19, 2019

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH KASTNER WESTMAN &
WILKINS, LLC FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO UPCOMING LABOR
NEGOTIATIONS**

WHEREAS, The Cleveland Public Library and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), District 1199, are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that will expire on December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Kastner Westman & Wilkins, LLC (KWW) has proposed to assist the Library in the upcoming labor negotiations with SEIU; and

WHEREAS, KWW has extensive experience representing public libraries in Ohio in a broad range of labor and employment matters and has represented such local libraries as Cuyahoga County Public Library, Stark County District Library, Rocky River Public Library, and Shaker Heights Public Library. KWW also represented the Cleveland Public Library during fact-finding in 2004; and

WHEREAS, KWW has offered to reduce its hourly fees to the same level that the Library currently pays to Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak, & Stewart, P.C. for other employment-related legal services. KWW's discounted hourly rates are \$270 for partners, \$150 for associates, and \$130 for paralegals; and

WHEREAS The Library Administration believes that it is in the Library's best interests to retain the services of KWW for assistance with the upcoming labor negotiations with SEIU; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Trustees authorizes the Executive Director, CEO or his designees, to enter into an agreement with Kastner Westman & Wilkins, LLC for legal services in connection with labor negotiations with SEIU at the fees set forth in this Resolution for a total amount not-to-exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), which expenditure shall be charged to General Fund Account 11400053-53710 (Professional Services), and which agreement shall be subject to the approval of the Chief Legal Officer.