

CITY OF UNALASKA  
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2023-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DIANNE BLUMER OF NAVIGATE AK, dba BLUMER & ASSOCIATES, FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM

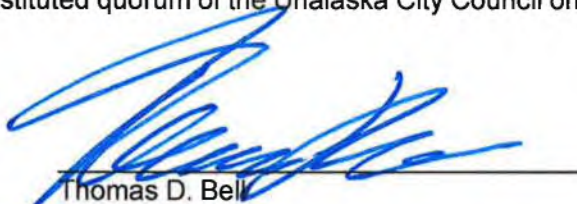
WHEREAS, the Unalaska City Council has determined it is beneficial to the City of Unalaska to retain a lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, the existing Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer of Blumer & Associates will expire on June 30, 2023; and


WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska wishes to retain Dianne Blumer to perform the duties of Lobbyist as directed by the City of Unalaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unalaska City Council authorizes the City Manager to extend the Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer, Blumer & Associates for an additional term, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, for a fee of \$71,000 plus reasonable expenses.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on June 13, 2023.

  
Thomas D. Bell  
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
Marjie Veeder, CMC  
City Clerk



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## MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

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To: Mayor and City Council Members  
From: Michelle Price, Administrative Coordinator  
Through: William Homka, City Manager  
Date: June 13, 2023  
Re: Resolution 2023-29: Authorizing the City Manager to extend the term of the Professional Services Agreement with Dianne Blumer of Navigate AK, dba Blumer & Associates, for an additional term

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**SUMMARY:** State lobbyist Dianne Blumer's contract with the City expires on June 30, 2023. Ms. Blumer submitted a letter of interest to the City Manager, expressing her interest to renew her contract (copy attached). Resolution 2023-29 authorizes the City Manager to extend the term of the Professional Services Agreement for an additional term. Staff recommends approval.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:** Council adopted Resolution 2022-28 on June 28, 2022, authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Professional Services agreement contract for FY23 in the amount of \$71,000 plus reasonable expenses. Council budgeted \$71,000 for state lobbyist fees for FY24.

**BACKGROUND:** Dianne Blumer has been the City Council's lobbyist for state affairs since FY19. Her firm's name has changed to Navigate AK, doing business as Blumer & Associates.

The table below provides a history of compensation rates for Dianne Blumer from FY19 to present:

YEAR	FEES	EXPENSES	TOTAL
FY19	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
FY20	\$ 71,000.00	\$1,602.08	\$ 72,602.08
FY21	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
FY22	\$ 71,000.00	\$1,206.00	\$ 72,206.00
FY23	\$ 71,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 71,250.00
TOTAL	\$ 355,000.00	\$3,558.08	\$ 358,558.08

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Blumer's letter states that she is interested in continuing her services for the next fiscal year. She has not requested an increase in her retainer.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Council could renew the lobbying contract at the current level, recommend an increase to the base compensation rate or a cost of living increase, or not enter into a lobbying agreement.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** This expense is included in the FY24 budget for \$71,000, plus reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

**LEGAL:** None needed.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** If Council agrees to authorize the City Manager to sign a renewal contract with Dianne Blumer of Blumer & Associates, Council should approve and adopt Resolution 2023-29.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** This item is included on the Consent Agenda and will be included in the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. If the item is moved to the Regular Agenda for discussion, the suggested motion is to move to adopt Resolution 2023-28.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** I recommend Council approve this resolution.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Letter of interest from Dianne Blumer dated May 2, 2023
- Proposed Modification of Professional Services Agreement



6058 Azalea Dr. Anchorage, AK 99516  
907-575-2279 [dianne@navigate-ak.com](mailto:dianne@navigate-ak.com)

May 2, 2023

Mayor Vince Tutiakoff  
City of Unalaska  
P O Box 610  
Unalaska, Alaska 99865

Subject: Letter of Interest for FY 2024 Lobbying Services

Dear Mayor Tutiakoff:

Navigate AK (dba Blumer & Associates) is pleased to offer this Letter of Interest for the continuation of an FY2024 lobbying contract representing the City of Unalaska. It has been my distinct privilege to work with you, the City Manager(s), City Council, and staff over the last year.

I would be honored to continue working on the list of priorities important to the city and to advocate adamantly next year to bring those key projects to the forefront for funding. I believe the City of Unalaska has many exciting economic opportunities on the horizon. This session we have had several meetings regarding the city's priorities, including a very positive one with the Department of Transportation regarding the first phase of Captains Bay Road.

As the Principal of Navigate AK I personally offer over seventeen years of combined experience with the Alaska State Legislature and twenty-six years with the Executive Branch. I maintain a solid relationship with the Governor and his Cabinet, as well as a bi-partisan relationship with the House and Senate members, including leadership on both sides of the aisle. I am well versed in the history, legislative goals, priorities, and roles of local government.

Navigate AK possess the bipartisan professional relationships to ensure that your priorities and concerns are well represented and advocated for. I am fluent in local government priorities, programs and resolutions on key issues. I have had the pleasure of serving the City of Unalaska over the last six years and am familiar with many of the local issues and key objectives.

In addition to advocating on various cities Independent capital requests, I have supported statewide local government matters in the legislature including, but not limited to; the PERS/TRS employer contribution rate, community assistance / revenue sharing, shared fish tax, school bond debt reimbursement, supported maximum local control including multiple pieces of legislation, multiple budget appropriations, and pushback against cost shifting.

**My work history includes independent lobbying, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor in the legislature, executive level management positions in the Administration, including a Cabinet- level appointment by the Governor as the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.**

**I offer integrity, professionalism, familiarity with process, and the bipartisan relationships required to successfully represent the City of Unalaska**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Blumer".

**Dianne Blumer**

**President**

**Navigate AK**



**MODIFICATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This modification is made to that certain agreement dated June 14, 2022, between the City of Unalaska (hereinafter designated as "City") and Blumer & Associates, hereinafter designated as "Consultant". The Professional Services Agreement is modified as follows:

1. The Agreement is extended for an additional term effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
2. The total payment under this Agreement shall not exceed \$71,000, plus reasonable expenses.
3. Payment for services to Consultant shall be as follows:

DATE	AMOUNT
July 1, 2023	\$1775.00
August 1, 2023	\$1775.00
September 1, 2023	\$1775.00
October 1, 2023	\$1775.00
November 1, 2023	\$1775.00
December 1, 2023	\$1775.00
January 1, 2023	\$14,200.00
February 1, 2023	\$14,200.00
March 1, 2023	\$14,200.00
April 1, 2023	\$14,200.00
May 1, 2023	\$1775.00
June 1, 2023	\$1775.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>

**CITY OF UNALASKA**

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Marjie Veeder, Acting City Manager

STATE OF ALASKA     )  
                                  ) ss.  
Third Judicial District    )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of June 2023 by WILLIAM HOMKA, City Manager for the City of Unalaska, a First Class Alaska Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the City of Unalaska.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

**BLUMER & ASSOCIATES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dianne Blumer

STATE OF ALASKA     )  
                                  ) ss.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Judicial District )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of June 2023, by DIANNE BLUMER on behalf of BLUMER & ASSOCIATES.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
Commission expires \_\_\_\_\_