



# City of Newark

City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

## Legislation Text

File #: 21-1592, Version: 1

**Dept/ Agency:** Office of the Mayor

**Action:** (X) Ratifying (X) Authorizing ( ) Amending

**Type of Service:** Professional Service Contract

**Purpose:** To serve as a Per Diem Public Defender for the Newark Municipal Court representing indigent defenders.

**Entity Name:** Jason A. Dennis, Esq.

**Entity Address:** 485C US Highway 1 South, Suite 350, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3037

**Contract Amount:** Not to exceed \$17,000.00

**Funding Source:** 2021 Budget/Office of the Mayor

**Contract Period:** January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

**Contract Basis:** ( ) Bid ( ) State Vendor (X) Prof. Ser. ( ) EUS  
( ) Fair & Open ( ) No Reportable Contributions ( ) RFP ( ) RFQ  
( ) Private Sale ( ) Grant ( ) Sub-recipient ( ) N/A

**Additional Information:**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Newark (the "City") is in need of Per Diem Attorneys to serve as Municipal Public Defenders to be assigned to cases in the Newark Municipal Court; and

**WHEREAS**, Legal Services are Professional Services, exempt from the requirement for public bidding, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A.11-5(1)a(i); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Newark desires to enter into a contract with Jason A. Dennis, Esq., 485C US Highway 1 South, Suite #350, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3037, to serve as a Per Diem Municipal Public Defender for the Newark Municipal Court, representing indigent defendants, for an amount not to exceed Seventeen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,000.00), for the period commencing January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, this contract is for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 and therefore is not subject to State Pay-to-Play Law (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5); and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.) requires that notice of award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding must be published in a local newspaper; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Council adopted the Contractor Pay to Play Reform Ordinance, R.O. 2:4-22C, which forbids the award of a contract to a Business Entity, as defined therein, which has made or solicited political contributions to Newark Municipal Candidates, office holders having ultimate responsibility for the award of a contract, candidate committees of the aforementioned candidates; and political or political party committees of the City of Newark or County of Essex; and continuing political committees or political action committees regularly engaged in the support of the

City of Newark municipal or County of Essex elections; and certain other political party or candidate committees, in excess of certain thresholds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:**

1. The Mayor of the City of Newark and/or his designee, the Chief Municipal Public Defender, are hereby authorized to enter into and execute a Professional Services contract with Jason Dennis, Esq., 331 485C US Highway 1 South, Suite #350, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3037, to serve as a Per Diem Municipal Public Defender for the Newark Municipal Court, representing indigent defendants, for an amount not to exceed Seventeen Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$17,000.00), for the period commencing January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2021.
2. This contract is for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 and therefore is not subject to State Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5.
3. This contract is being awarded as a Professional Service pursuant to the provisions of the State Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i)) because service required must be performed by someone who is licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey and is in compliance with the Contractor Pay-to-Play Reform Ordinance, R.O. 2:4-22C.
4. This contract is being awarded as open-ended contract under N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b), and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b) (2), a certification of availability of funds shall be executed each time services are used and charged against contract.
5. The contract between the City of Newark and Jason Dennis, Esq. is hereby ratified from January 1, 2021 through the date of the adoption of this authorizing Resolution.
6. The Chief Municipal Public Defender shall file a copy of the fully executed contract herein authorized in the Office of the City Clerk and it shall be made available for public inspection.
7. A notice of this action shall be published in the newspaper authorized by law to publish a legal advertisement and as required by law within ten (10) days of the adoption of this Resolution.

**STATEMENT**

This Resolution ratifies and authorizes the Mayor of the City of Newark and/or his designee, the Chief Municipal Public Defender, to enter into and execute a Professional Services contract with Jason A. Dennis, Esq., 485 US Highway 1 South, Suite #350, Iselin, New Jersey 08830-3037, to serve as a Per Diem Municipal Public Defender for the Newark Municipal Court, representing indigent defendants for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00, for the period commencing January 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2021.

