



Rent Stabilization Board
Rent Board Chair

DATE: June 16, 2022

TO: Honorable Members of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board

FROM: Leah Simon-Weisberg, Chair
Soli Alpert, Vice-Chair

SUBJECT: Adjusting General Counsel Matt Brown's Salary According to Terms of Existing Employment Agreement

On September 24, 2021, the Board, by formal motion, created a General Counsel position and appointed Matt Brown to it. This position reports directly and solely to the elected Commissioners of the Rent Stabilization Board. Any salary increase, even one required by contract, must be implemented by a vote of the majority of the Board affirming such pay adjustment.

Paragraph 3 (Compensation and Benefits) of General Counsel Matt Brown's Employment Agreement provides that his compensation shall remain at least 15% above that of the Staff Attorney III classification. The contract the Board executed with Mr. Brown last year establishes his initial salary at exactly 15% above that of the Staff Attorney III classification. City employees, including the Staff Attorney III classification, are set to receive a 3% salary increase in July pursuant to the terms of the MOU signed last year establishing City employees' salary adjustments for the coming years.

The attached Resolution 22-20 simply adjusts Mr. Brown's salary in line with the terms of his existing Employment Agreement with the Board.

RESOLUTION 22-20

APPROVING ADJUSTMENT TO COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR RENT STABILIZATION BOARD GENERAL COUNSEL MATT BROWN

BE IT RESOLVED by the Rent Stabilization Board of the City of Berkeley (“Board”) as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized under Section 123(2) of Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley to employ staff as necessary to perform its functions; and

WHEREAS, the General Counsel shall serve as the chief attorney for the Board and is charged with the responsibility of protecting the interests of the Board and its employees as provided for under California law and Article XVII of the Charter of the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution 21-20 and signed a contract with General Counsel, Matt Brown, that makes clear that the Board intends that Mr. Brown’s salary shall remain at least 15% above that of a Staff Attorney III classification; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown’s salary was initially established at exactly 15% more than the salary for Staff Attorney III classification; and

WHEREAS, the Staff Attorney III classification will receive a 3% salary increase in July of 2022 in line with other City of Berkeley employees; and

WHEREAS, the Board would like to adjust Mr. Brown’s salary according to the terms articulated in Paragraph 3 (Compensation and Benefits) of the Employment Agreement dated September 24, 2021, and executed at the September 23, 2021 Board meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board hereby authorizes its Executive Director and Board Chair to execute appropriate contract amendments to the existing employment agreement of Matt Brown that will increase his salary from \$109.740 per hour to \$113.032 per hour (annual salary adjusted from \$228,259.00 to \$235,106.56) which represents a 3% increase; and

RESOLUTION 22-20

**APPROVING ADJUSTMENT TO COMPENSATION PACKAGE FOR RENT
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this adjustment will maintain Mr. Brown's salary at 15% more than the Staff Attorney III classification which is in line with the requirements articulated in Paragraph 3 (Compensation and Benefits) of the existing Employment Agreement between Board and Mr. Brown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salary adjustment to Mr. Brown's contract will take effect during the pay cycle beginning in July when the salary increase for the Staff Attorney III classification is implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other terms of Mr. Brown's contract will remain the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract will be made available for public inspection once all parties have signed the amendments articulated herein.

Dated: June 16, 2022

Adopted by the Rent Stabilization Board of the City of Berkeley by the following vote:

YES:

NO:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Leah Simon-Weisberg, Chair
Rent Stabilization Board

Attest: _____
DeSeana Williams, Executive Director