EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF RIVERSIDE AND PHAEDRA NORTON AS CITY ATTORNEY (AT-WILL AND NON-CLASSIFIED POSITION)

July

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _27thday of -June 2021, by and between the City of Riverside, a California charter city and municipal corporation ("City") and Phaedra Norton ("Norton") (collectively referred to as "Parties"), both of whom understand and agree to the following:

RECITALS

WHEREAS, under Riverside City Ordinance 2.36.040(B), the City Council voted to July appoint Norton as its City Attorney or Jume 20, 2021 at its regularly scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Norton possesses the specialized skills necessary and required for the position of City Attorney, which office was created under Article VII, Section 700, of the City Charter; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth herein and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the City and Norton agree as follows:

SECTION 1. AGREEMENT TO EMPLOY

- 1. The City agrees to employ the services of Norton as City Attorney upon the effective date of this At-Will Employment Agreement ("Agreement").
- 2. Norton agrees to accept at-will employment as City Attorney pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.
- 3. Norton agrees to remain in the exclusive employ of the City during the term of this Agreement and neither to accept other employment nor to become employed by any other employer unless her employment with the City is terminated. The term "employment" shall not be construed to include occasional teaching, writing, consulting or military reserve service performed on Norton's time off.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM

4. The effective date of this Agreement shall be July 20, 2021 and the Employee agrees

to fulfill the functions and duties of City Attorney of the City of Riverside. This Agreement shall remain in effect for a period of three (3) years, unless otherwise terminated pursuant to the provisions stated herein. At the end of the initial term, i.e., July 20, 2024, this Agreement may be extended upon a mutual written agreement of the Parties.

SECTION 3. DUTIES

5. Upon the effective date of this Agreement, Norton's job title will be City Attorney. In this capacity, Norton shall perform duties under Article VII, Section 702, of the City Charter and the City Attorney job description, Code 8990, attached as Exhibit A to this Agreement.

SECTION 4. COMPENSATION

- 6. City shall compensate Norton with an annual salary of \$286,000.00 (two hundred eighty-six thousand dollars), payable in the same manner and time as are all other employees of City under Riverside City Resolution No. 21052.
- 7. Norton is an exempt employee under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and shall not be entitled to receive any overtime pay, compensatory time, or other premium pay or compensation except as set forth in this Agreement.
- 8. Norton's salary shall be subject to withholding and other applicable taxes and shall be payable to Norton on a pro rata basis at the same time as other employees of the City are paid.

SECTION 5. FRINGE BENEFITS

- 9. Effective July 20, 2021, the City agrees to provide Norton with benefits that are consistent with benefits provided to the Executive Group pursuant to the Fringe Benefit and Salary Plan ("FBSP") Resolution No. 21052, as the same now exists or hereafter may be amended, and include vacation, sick leave, administrative leave, holidays, retirement (PERS) benefits and payments, health, dental, vision, life insurance, deferred compensation plan and automobile allowance. In addition, the City shall make available a long-term disability insurance plans the same if provided to other City employees in the Executive group.
 - a. **Vacation.** Norton will receive a one-time credit of 80 vacation hours as of the effective date of this Agreement.
 - b. Sick Leave. Norton will receive a one-time credit of 80 sick leave hours as of the

effective date of this Agreement.

- c. Professional Development. City shall pay for Norton's State of California Annual Bar dues, costs for minimum continuing legal education requirements, and the costs for attendance at the League of California Cities City Attorneys' Spring Conference and Annual Conference.
- d. **Relocation.** City shall provide a one-time reimbursement to Norton for costs to relocate from Denair, California in order to assume her employment with the City of Riverside, up to the total amount of \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) maximum.
- e. **Cost of Living Increase.** Norton shall be entitled to any approved cost of living increase as set forth in the Riverside City Council Resolution No. 21052 in the same manner as the Executive Group after the effective date of this Agreement.

SECTION 6. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- annually. The annual review and evaluation shall be in accordance with specific criteria developed jointly by the City Council and Norton. Such criteria may be added to or deleted as the City Council may from time to time determine in consultation with the Norton, provided, however, that such criteria shall be established within the limits of the resources made available to Norton for accomplishment of the identified goals and objectives. At such annual performance evaluation, the City Council and Norton shall define goals and performance objectives which they determine for the attainment of the City Council's policy objectives. City Council and Norton shall further establish a relative priority among those various goals and objectives to be reduced to writing. Norton agrees that she will act in good faith to assure that she has available those resources reasonably necessary to achieve compliance of identified goals and objectives within the anticipated time frames.
- 11. In giving effect to the provisions of this section, the City Council and Norton mutually agree to act in good faith and abide by all provisions of applicable law. In recognition of accomplishments of objectives and excellent performance, a merit increase may be granted to

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SECTION 7. TERMINATION AND MODIFICATION

- 12. Norton understands and agrees that the City Council may terminate this Agreement at any time with or without cause or advance notice by the City Council, and without right of challenge or appeal right of any kind whatsoever. The City Council shall only be required to provide written notice to Norton as to the effective date of termination.
- 13. In the event this Agreement is terminated, Norton agrees to immediately surrender the position of City Attorney, any and all writings containing information relating to the conduct of the City's business prepared, owned, used or retained by Norton regardless of physical form or characteristics, and any and all equipment, tools, or other materials of whatever nature provided to Norton by City in her capacity of City Attorney. Norton shall be entitled to receive payment for all hours worked, any holiday pay due and owing, all vacation hours accrued to the date of termination and any deferred compensation contributions made by Norton (including contributions by the City on behalf of Norton).
- 14. In the event this Agreement is terminated for cause, the City's obligation to pay Norton under Section 16 below shall immediately cease and Norton will not be entitled to any severance pay. "Cause" means that Norton has engaged in or committed any of the following: willful misconduct; gross negligence; theft; fraud or other illegal conduct; refusal or unwillingness to perform duties; failure to adequately perform her job duties; dishonesty in performing her job duties; violation of the City's written policies or rules; conduct which reflects adversely upon, or making any remarks disparaging of the City; insubordination; conviction of a felony or any crime involving an act of dishonesty, moral turpitude, deceit or fraud; any willful act that injures the reputation of the City; violation of any fiduciary duty; violation of any duty of loyalty; and breech of this Agreement.
- 15. In the event Norton desires to terminate this Agreement during such time as the City Council desires Norton to continue in the capacity of City Attorney, then in that event, Norton agrees to provide the City Council with two (2) weeks advance written notice of said termination.
 - 16. In the event the City Council desires to terminate this Agreement without cause

during which time Norton is ready, willing and able to perform the functions and duties set forth herein, then in that event, City Council agrees to provide Norton with severance pay representing one (1) month salary (exclusive of fringe benefits) for each year of service to the City up to a maximum of six (6) months salary.

- 17. The City Council has the right to modify or alter Norton's position, with or without cause or advance notice, through actions other than termination, such as demotion to the Chief Assistant City Attorney or transfer.
- 18. No City representative has authority to agree to anything contrary to employment atwill unless it is specific, in writing, and signed by the City Council.
- 19. In the event that this Agreement is terminated, any cash settlement related to the termination that Norton may receive from the City shall be fully reimbursed to the City if Norton is convicted of a crime involving an abuse of her office or position as defined in Government Code section 53243.4.

SECTION 8. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

20. The City Council, in consultation with Norton, shall fix any such other terms and conditions of employment, as it may determine from time to time, relating to the performance of the provisions of this Agreement, the City Charter, any ordinance or resolution of City, or any other applicable law.

SECTION 9. NONDISCRIMINATION.

21. Norton agrees that in the performance of her functions and duties, she shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age (40 and over), physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or any condition related thereto, genetic information, marital status, sex, , gender, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation, and military and veteran status.

SECTION 10. ENTIRE AGREEMENT.

22. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties. No promise, representation, warranty or covenant not included in this Agreement has been or is relied on by

any party hereto. If any provision or any portion hereof is held unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement or portion hereof shall be deemed severable, shall not be affected, and shall remain in full force and effect. This Agreement may only be amended in writing and duly executed by the Parties.

SECTION 11. NO ASSIGNMENT.

23. This Agreement is not assignable by either City or Norton.

SECTION 12. NOTICES.

24. Notices pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be personally served, given by mail or by overnight delivery. Any notice served by mail shall be deemed given when deposited in the United States Mail, certified and postage prepaid, addressed to the respective parties at 3900 Main Street, Riverside, California, 92522, or such other address as may be given, in writing, to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, City and Norton have caused this Agreement to be executed on the day and year first written below.

"EMPLOYEE"

EMPLOYER

Phaedra Norton

Patricia Lock Dawson

Mayor

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Mayor Pro Tem

Attest

City Clerk Donesia Gause Approved as to form:

usun Wilson / for

Interim City Attorney