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TODAY'S NEWS

23 apply to be Miami's city attorney in first nine days, June selection due

BY MEISHA PERRIN

Just nine days after the job had posted, 23 persons had applied for the impending opening as Miami's new city attorney, Human Resources Director Beverly Pruitt told the city commission Thursday.

The top candidate will be replacing Miami's current attorney, Julie Bru, who has been working with the city for more than 25 years, after she retires in September.

Applications, according to Ms. Pruitt, haven't yet been screened to determine eligibility, and they won't be until the application deadline April 19.

After that, she said, the department will provide the selection committee with all the applications. Commissioners are to determine the scope of work for the selection committee at the next city commission meeting.



City Attorney Julie Bru set to retire.

Each commissioner made an appointment for the selection committee, which is to be comprised of attorneys Melissa Tapanes of Berrow Radell & Fernandez P.A., Mitchell Berger of Berger Singerman, Ray Abadin of Abadin Cook, Richard Weiss of Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske and Reginald Clyne of Clyne & Self P.A.

Mr. Weiss and Mr. Clyne were appointed last week by Commissioners Francis Suarez and Michelle Spence-Jones, respectively.

According to the recruitment timeline, the selection committee should narrow the list to the top five candidates to bring before the city commission by May 23, after which commissioners can interview candidates until June 17.

By June 27, according to the timeline, the commission should select a candidate.

The city attorney is a charter officer responsible for all legal matters related to the city's municipal government and corporate affairs, and will be a fulltime government employee who cannot engage in private legal practice.

Qualifications, according to the job announcement, include graduation from an accredited college of law, admission to practice law in Florida and a minimum of 10 years progressively responsible legal experience, of which at least five years were in

the public sector and local government law.

The commission is to set the salary in June or July.

Posting for the position, Ms. Pruitt said, will end April 19.

The official appointment is to take place July 25, and the proposed start date is Aug. 5.

To apply, candidates can visit www.miamigov.com/cityattorney/employment