

LAW DEPARTMENT



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March 13, 2023

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RE: Outside Counsel for Labor Matters

Dear Mayor:

As you know, the sudden passing of our dear colleague Jeff Honig on October 16, 2022 left a void in managing our labor relation matters with City unions for the time being. Other staff in the office are busy handling a number of grievances, arbitrations and negotiations, but I find it necessary at this time to enlist the temporary assistance of outside counsel to handle contract negotiations with the city unions as we begin those bargaining sessions to reach successor agreements.

I have engaged labor counsel at Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane, LLP (MHTL) to assist us in this work. I am confident that their expertise will be a benefit to the City in these negotiations. MHTL has agreed to continue to support the City of Newton until the Law Department is able to hire labor counsel to pick up the work that Jeff handled for the City.

In order to cover these unexpected legal costs, I request additional funding be added to the Law Department's budget for legal services.

Very truly yours,

Alissa Giuliani

cc: Maureen Lemieux, CFO