

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hoboken Municipal City Council Members
FR: Mayor Dawn Zimmer
RE: Legal Department

Council Members,

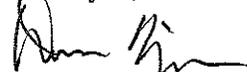
Attached, please find the resume of Mellissa Longo. Ms. Longo comes to us from the City of Newark's legal department, where she served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel. She also worked in the private sector for a number of years, and recently completed her Masters degree in Public Administration at Rutgers University. Mellissa is needed as a full-time employee.

The City will be better represented in the Corporation Counsel's office because of this addition, but my ultimate intention is to lower the City's legal costs, both in upfront costs and in outside litigation. For years, cases have been over litigated and the City has experienced inflated legal expenses, in some years in excess of one million dollars (\$1.1 million in FY '07). Since 2007, one outside firm alone has been paid over one million dollars in City funds. My intention is to develop a legal department that is able to proactively intervene in matters to avoid costly litigation and when litigation is unavoidable to provide more aggressive case management to lower the City's outside legal expenses. My hope is that by adding much needed resources to the legal department, we will keep all legal contracts in check.

It is important to note that a lack of quality legal representation can be disastrous for the City. In the FY '10 budget, we were forced to pay a penalty of \$4.2 million dollars that could easily have been avoided with diligent legal representation. We must be attentive about keeping the City's legal costs down, but we need appropriate staffing in legal representation in order to do so.

It is my belief that our new Corporation Counsel was our first important step toward this objective, and I believe Ms. Longo's addition is another critical component.

Thank you,



Mayor Zimmer