

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

RUDOLPH M. KONRAD
LINDA ULISS BURKE
VINCENT D. MOSCHELLA
Deputy City Attorneys



THOMAS O. GARTNER
STUART S. MUKAMAL
THOMAS J. BEAMISH
MAURITA F. HOUREN
JOHN J. HEINEN
SUSAN E. LAPPEN
JAN A. SMOKOWICZ
PATRICIA A. FRICKER
HEIDI WICK SPOERL
KURT A. BEHLING
GREGG C. HAGOPIAN
ELLEN H. TANGEN
MELANIE RUTLEDGE
JAY A. UNORA
DONALD L. SCHRIEFER
EDWARD M. EHRlich
MIRIAM R. HORWITZ
MARYNELL REGAN
G. O'SULLIVAN-CROWLEY
KATHRYN Z. BLOCK
ELOISA DE LEÓN
ADAM B. STEPHENS
KEVIN P. SULLIVAN
THOMAS D. MILLER
JARELY M. RUIZ
ROBIN A. PEDERSON
CHRISTINE M. QUINN
MARGARET C. DAUN
JEREMY R. MCKENZIE
MARY L. SCHANNING
PETER J. BLOCK
NICHOLAS P. DESIATO
JOANNA GIBELEV
Assistant City Attorneys

January 2, 2014

To the Honorable Common Council
of the City of Milwaukee
Room 205 - City Hall

Re: Communication from Attorney D. Michael Guerin, Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin
Brown, for legal fees for Police Officer Sebastian Raclaw

Dear Council Members:

Returned herewith is a document filed by Attorney D. Michael Guerin for attorney's fees for representing Police Officer Sebastian Raclaw. The claim is in the amount of \$2,200.00. The claim for legal fees is for 9.00 hours of service billed at the rate of \$250.00 per hour, for a total amount of legal fees of \$2,250.00. We ask that this matter be introduced and referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Legislation.

We have reviewed this claim and advise that in our opinion, the time spent was reasonable. Legal representation was occasioned by a criminal prosecution. Ultimately, Officer Harris was found not guilty of any criminal or civil offense.

This claim again represents an opportunity for the Common Council to consider such a request under the amended Wis. Stats. §895.35(2). The pertinent language in that statute is the following: "the city...shall reimburse a protective services officer for *reasonable attorney fees* incurred by the officer in connection with a criminal proceeding arising from the officer's conduct in the performance of official duties..." except for certain circumstances that do not apply here. (Emphasis supplied). The amended statute thus removes discretion from the City over whether to pay such claims arising from certain criminal proceedings, but does not specify what are to be deemed "reasonable" attorneys fees.

As to the proper definition of "reasonable" attorney fees, such a requirement has been interpreted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in the past in a comparable context. *Village of Shorewood v. Steinberg*, 174 Wis. 2d 191, 204-5, 496 N.W.2d 57 (1993). In doing so, it referred to one of its rules, SCR 20:1.5, relating to fees that attorneys may charge. The factors prescribed by that rule include: 1) time and labor required, 2) novelty and

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difficulty of the questions involved; 3) skill required to perform services; 4) apparent likelihood that lawyer will be precluded from other work; 5) the fee customarily charged; 6) amount involved and results obtained; 7) limitations imposed by client or circumstances; 8) nature and length of the relationship; 9) experience and ability of the lawyer; and, 10) whether the fee is fixed or contingent. Given what we know of this situation, the time and labor required, the skill required to perform the services, the fee customarily charged, and the experience and ability of the lawyer support the hourly rate of \$250.00.

Under all the circumstances, therefore, we would recommend that the City pay \$2,250.00 for attorneys' fees in this matter.

Very truly yours,

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Smokowicz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JAN A. SMOKOWICZ
Assistant City Attorney

JAS
Enc.

1032-2011-2729;193214



GIMBEL • REILLY • GUERIN • BROWN LLP

Writer's Direct E-mail
dmguerin@grgblaw.com

August 26, 2011

Jan A. Smokowicz, Assistant City Attorney
Office of City Attorney
800 City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551

Re: Sabastian Raclaw

Dear Mr. Smokowicz:

Enclosed please find our statement for services rendered at the government rate of \$250.00 per hour for Sabastian Raclaw, a City of Milwaukee Police Officer. Officer Raclaw was notified by the Milwaukee Police Department that he was the subject of a criminal investigation. Obviously, your office is in a conflict position and he retained the services of this office.

Officer Raclaw was contacted by the criminal division of the Milwaukee Police Department regarding his activities with Bradley DeBraska who was ultimately charged with a criminal offense. Officer Raclaw was not charged with any criminal violation as a result of our involvement.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Guerin", written over a horizontal line.

D. MICHAEL GUERIN

DMG/ker
Enclosure
Crim/Raclaw, Sabastian/Smokowicz 2011-08-26

TWO PLAZA EAST
SUITE 1170
330 E. KILBOURN AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
P: 414-271-1440
F: 414-271-7680
WWW.GRGBLAW.COM



GIMBEL, REILLY, GUERIN & BROWN LLP
Two Plaza East, Suite 1170 - 330 East Kilbourn Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 - www.grgblaw.com
Telephone (414) 271-1440 - Facsimile (414) 271-7680

Family Law, Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Real Estate,
Business, Estate Planning, Civil & Commercial Litigation
In State and Federal Courts
Federal Tax ID 39-1094570

Page: 1
August 10, 2010
ACCOUNT NO.: 200906802M
STATEMENT NO.: 1

Milwaukee Police Supervisors Org.
2900 West Forest Home Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215

Criminal-Sabastian Raclaw

Our invoices for services are due and payable within 60 days
From the invoice date. Failure to pay charges within that
Time will result in an interest charge of 1-1/2% on the
Unpaid balance per month thereafter.

	HOURS	
02/10/09		
DMG Telephone conference with potential client; office conference with Sabastian regarding John Doe investigation.	2.50	
02/12/09		
DMG Telephone conference with client several times; review file; review internet; office conference with client; meeting with client.	4.50	
02/13/09		
DMG Attend John Doe hearing.	2.00	
	9.00	2,250.00

RECAPITULATION			
<u>Timekeeper</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
D. M. Guerin	9.00	250.00	2,250.00

TOTAL CURRENT WORK 2,250.00

BALANCE DUE \$2,250.00

PLEASE RETURN ONE COPY OF THIS STATEMENT WITH YOUR PAYMENT.
THANK YOU!