

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

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Assistant City Attorneys

June 11, 2015

Mr. James Owczarski
City Clerk

Ald. Nik Kovac, Chair
Finance & Personnel Committee

Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Communication File Relating to an Amendment to the 2015 Positions Ordinance

Dear Ald. Kovac and Clerk Owczarski:

The City Attorney's Office is submitting this communication file requesting inclusion on the Finance & Personnel Committee agenda. This file increases an existing position FTE for Assistant City Attorney from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE consistent with correspondence to the Budget Office (attached) and after consultation with that office.

The 2015 Positions Ordinance would need to be amended as follows:

<u>Caption/Position Title</u>	<u>Add</u>	<u>Delete</u>
<u>CITY ATTORNEY</u> LEGAL DIVISION 34 Asst. City Attorney V (A)(Y)	1	
<u>CITY ATTORNEY</u> LEGAL DIVISION 2 Asst. City Attorney V (0.8) (A)(Y)		1

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Withers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Richard L. Withers

Special Assistant to the City Attorney

Enclosure

Cc: Grant F. Langley, City Attorney
Mark Nicolini, Director, Budget & Management
Miriam Horwitz, Deputy City Attorney
Molly King, Manager, Budget Office
Chirs Lee, Council Records

RLW
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June 2, 2015

Mark Nicolini
Budget Director
Department of Administration
Budget & Management Division
Room 603 – City Hall

Re: Request for Full Time Equivalent Position for Heidi Wick Spoerl

Dear Mr. Nicolini:

Assistant City Attorney Heidi Wick Spoerl is currently in a .8 FTE position. We are writing to request that her position now become a full time position due to an increase in her workload.

Ms. Spoerl's area of expertise over many years is the defense of worker's compensation claims at hearings and through appeals. She also pursues reimbursement of compensation and medical expenses the City has paid in the event the injured employee has a claim against a third party. Her work is critical to reducing worker's compensation benefits and medical expenses for the City, and MPS.

As you will see from the enclosed chart, Ms. Spoerl's case load had been slowly rising through 2012. From 2013 to 2013, the rise began to accelerate and from 2013 to 2014 the total cases opened went from 80 to 114 which is approximately a 40% increase. The experience through April 28, 2015 put the statistic for 2015 on pace with 2014.

From our discussions with Ms. Spoerl, it is clear that this increase in work is not temporary. Further, in addition to the increased number of cases being opened annually, the complexity of the cases has increased, with many more matters now requiring defense of overlying or underlying psychological (stress) claims. In legal terms, the inclusion of a stress component to a worker's compensation claim increases the amount in controversy and can transform an otherwise "scheduled" injury with a fixed percentage of permanent partial disability, to a claim for loss of earning capacity and the potential for permanent total disability. The additional work has required Ms. Spoerl to now work many hours

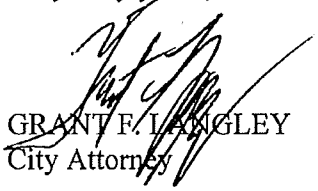


Mark Nicolini
June 2, 2015
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beyond what she is paid as a .8 FTE, and regardless of her high level of professionalism, it is only fair and appropriate that she receive a full-time salary for full time work.

I have presented this information to Maria Monteagudo, Director of Employee Relations and she has concurred in the need for this action. Please indicate your agreement to this request by June 10 or earlier, so it can be presented at the next Finance and Personnel Committee.

Very truly yours,



GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney



MIRIAM R. HORWITZ
Deputy City Attorney

MRH:lmb
enclosure
#215991

c: Grant F. Langley
Maria Monteagudo
Richard Withers

HEIDI WICK SPOERL'S CASES OPENED 1/1/2009 - 4/28/2015								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Totals
Adm Appeal/LIRC	0	0	2	0	2	6	3	13
Appeal	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Civil/Subro	6	5	7	9	6	7	1	41
Client Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Confidential Opinion	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Document Preparation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Vehicle Claim	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	4
WC Hearing	61	63	65	63	69	100	33	454
Totals	68	69	74	74	80	114	38	517