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September 3, 2021

Common Council Members  
200 E. Wells Street, Room #205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Response to Letter dated 8/25/21

Dear Members of the Common Council,

I am in receipt of your letter date August 25, 2021 regarding the departure of Assistant City Attorney, Tyrone St. Junior. I acknowledge and recognize the good work of Mr. St. Junior and have wished him well on his coveted new position as VP of Legal Counsel at R. W. Baird.

As you well, know with a change in administration, there is transition. The City Attorney's Office is no exception. We have all had to make adjustments, especially beginning a new position in the midst of a pandemic. However, I believe that this shift has provided an opportunity to bring in new people and implement creative measures to serve this community. We are committed to administering the legal work of the City of Milwaukee and to establish structures that support the numerous departments and entities that require our assistance.

Yet, it is challenging to do the work of the City when we are faced with accusations of rumors and innuendos. These claims do not provide a healthy work environment for our staff as well as the citizens of this community. They all expect us to engage in professional and courteous ways in carrying out our responsibilities as public servants.

I am well aware of the many issues facing the City of Milwaukee and have been working diligently within the restrictions of City government. I also note that, in addition to commencing my new position while the City was shut down, I have encountered delays in getting position authority to fill vacancies. This has been extremely frustrating as a Department Head and especially challenging for our staff. However, I have just hired seven Assistant City Attorneys, a Budget/Finance Officer, a Personnel Officer, two Deputy City Attorneys and a Special Deputy City Attorney. I also have requested authorization to fill three more positions pursuant to two retirements and Tyrone's resignation. I am confident that once we become fully staffed, we can continue to restructure and reorganize the office in a way that addresses the multitude of inquiries we receive on a daily basis. To that end, I request that we find a way to work more collaboratively and respectfully in the service we provide to our constituents.

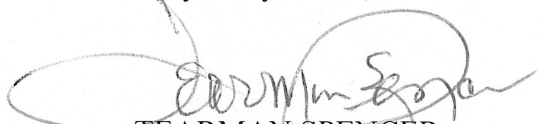
Response Letter to Common Council

September 3, 2021

Page 2

In the work of public service, we are called to act on behalf of the citizenry and in their best interests. It means that we take the high road and avoid petty complaints and posturing in order to effectuate our duties. Consequently, I urge each of you to honor your oaths of office and exemplify the level of integrity demanded by the people of Milwaukee. I assure you, I pledge to do the same.

Very Truly Yours,



TEARMAN SPENCER  
City Attorney