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June 14, 2018

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

Re:

Communication from Attorney Jonathan Cermele, Cermele & Matthews, S.C. for legal fees for Police Officers Dean Lidwin and Timothy Meinecke

Dear Council Members:

Returned herewith is a document filed by Attorney Jonathan Cermele for attorney's fees for representing Police Officers Dean Lidwin and Timothy Meinecke. The claim is in the amount of \$18,131.06, including \$1,356.06 in disbursements for 152.50 hours of service billed at the rate of \$110.00 per hour. Because the city does not pay mileage, the claim should be in the amount of \$18,057.50 including only \$1,282.50 in disbursements. 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 the filing of a citizen's complaint against the officers with the Fire and Police Commission. The complaint was initially upheld by the Commission, but was set aside on appeal by the circuit court with provision that the citizen could upon remand pursue a new trial. Upon remand, however, the citizen did not pursue the complaint further and the complaint was dismissed by the Commission on September 27, 2017.

As we have advised you under similar circumstances in the past, the Common Council has discretion to reject this claim or to pay it in whole or in part. Wis. Stat. § 895.35, *Bablitch and Bablitch v. Lincoln County*, 82 Wis. 2d 574 (1978).

Very truly yours,

GRANT FAANGLEY

City Attorney

JAN A. SMOKOWICZ Deputy City Attorney

JAS Enclosures 1032-2014-2033:245695



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