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December 1, 2015

Nicholas "Nick" Mimms
Interim City Manager
City of Ft. Pierce
100 North U.S. Highway 1
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

RE: *In re Edward Becht, Complaint No. 14-040 (Ethics Commission)*

Dear Mr. Mimms:

The purpose of this correspondence is to request, on behalf of Edward Becht, a member of the City of Ft. Pierce City Commission, that he be reimbursed for the payment of attorney's fees and costs associated with the successful defense of the above-referenced complaint filed with the Commission on Ethics.

Both case law and Attorney General's opinions authorize payment or reimbursement of legal fees in connection with the successful defense of a complaint filed with the Ethics Commission when the public official was performing official duties while serving a public purpose.

Briefly, the complaint filed against Mr. Becht can be summarized as follows: The complaint was filed by Rick Reed and alleged, among other things, that Mr. Becht voted on measures related Ft. Pierce Redevelopment Agency owned property adjacent to property owned by a company owned by Mr. Becht without filing a memorandum of voting conflict; that Mr. Becht asked the City Attorney to provide him with information about a possible City investigation of an individual who was adverse to a client of Mr. Becht's law firm; and that Mr. Becht had a voting conflict concerning measures related to the development of property and the abandonment of a City right-of-way adjacent to real property which either he or a company owned by Mr. Becht owned.

This complaint was found to be legally sufficient to warrant investigation and, following investigation by the Commission on Ethics and a probable cause hearing before the Commission on October 23, 2015. A copy of the Public Report dismissing both complaints is included with this letter. Underlying the Commission's finding of "no probable cause" is a determination that Mr. Becht was performing official duties while

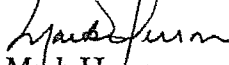
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-serving a public purpose in connection with his actions that were the subject of the complaints.

Our firm has billed Mr. Becht **\$2,325.00** in connection with the defense of this matter. The services of Mark Herron and J. Brennan Donnelly have been billed at the hourly rate of \$300 per hour. Copies of billing statements regarding these fees and costs included with this letter as well.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have additional questions or concerns, or need any additional information, with respect to this request, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Mark Herron

cc: Edward Becht, City Commissioner