



2018 City Attorney's Report

May 8, 2018

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission:

As I complete my second year as your City Attorney, I am pleased to inform you that the office continues to ensure that the City has competent, professional representation. This letter highlights just a small part of the daily activities of the office.

Part and parcel of that representation is the continued effort to encourage and integrate the Departments into the legal process. My goal is to achieve a result that reflects the collective wisdom of the organization.

To that end, I am pleased to report the six figure settlement of a code enforcement violation case, City of Fort Pierce v. Fort Pierce Petroleum LLC. That settlement would not have been possible without the cooperation and input of several Departments: Code Enforcement, Planning, Engineering and Building.

We also concluded the first limited Charter review of the relationship between the City and the FPUA. The Charter Review Commission conducted a six month study of the relationship. Key to their conclusions was the recommendation that both entities coordinate their strategic efforts in order to move the City forward, as well as the resolution of a longstanding issue regarding proportionate FPUA membership from the two Districts.

The office also successfully brought to closure Terry Ragin v. City, a civil service appeal which had been pending for three years.

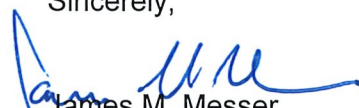
The daily work of the office, including land use, ordinances, municipal law, consultations with the Departments, representation of boards, labor and employment arbitrations and legal research, continues unabated.

To ensure that your attorneys are up to date on the latest legal and legislative developments, this office not only attends the annual Municipal Attorneys Seminar but is an active participant. For the first time in the history of the Fort Pierce City Attorney's office, one of your attorneys has been invited to address the group.

In summary, I would report that the City has a sound, competent legal department that continues to provide top level legal services to both the Commission and the Departments.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,


James M. Messer
City Attorney

cc: Nicholas C. Mimms, P.E., City Manager
Linda Cox, City Clerk