

May 22, 2026

Via Email – shedges@cityoffortpierce.com

Sara Hedges
City Attorney
City of Fort Pierce
100 North US 1
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Re: Request for Informed Consent Pursuant to Rule 4-1.7, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

Dear Ms. Hedges:

I write regarding my proposed engagement through my firm, C. Valentin Law PLLC (“Firm”), to provide general municipal legal services to the City of Fort Pierce.

As disclosed herein, the Firm currently represents the Clerk of the Court in connection with the review and processing of tax deed surplus claims arising from tax deed sales pursuant to Florida law. In that role, the Firm assists the Clerk with legal review and recommendations concerning competing claims to surplus funds following tax deed sales.

The City of Fort Pierce may from time to time assert claims against tax deed surplus funds arising from municipal code enforcement liens or related municipal liens.

Accordingly, the Firm’s proposed engagement with the City expressly excludes any representation or legal services relating to tax deeds, tax deed surplus claims, any ancillary or related tax deed matters. The Firm will not advise or represent the City in any matter involving tax deed surplus claims or any proceeding in which the Clerk of Court is involved in connection with tax deed surplus distributions.

The Firm believes that, with this limitation and exclusion in place:

1. The Firm will be able to provide competent and diligent representation to both clients;
2. The representation of the City will not be directly adverse to the Firm’s representation of the Clerk of Court;
3. The excluded scope of representation adequately addresses and mitigates any potential conflict concerns; and
4. The representation is permissible under Rule 4-1.7.

Regardless, the Firm believes it appropriate to disclose the potential for a concurrent conflict of interest and to request the City’s informed written consent to the representation.

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Should the City consent to the Firm's representation under these circumstances, please execute the acknowledgment below confirming the City's informed consent.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ Caroline A. Valentin

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INFORMED CONSENT

The City of Fort Pierce, through the undersigned Mayor, acknowledges the disclosures contained herein and provides informed consent pursuant to Rule 4-1.7 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar to the Firm's concurrent representation of the Clerk of Court and the City under the limitations and exclusions described above.

CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

By: _____

Name: Linda Hudson

Title: City of Fort Pierce Mayor

Date: _____

CV