

JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III
DISTRICT A



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NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL

September 6, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

CAO Gilbert Montañó
1300 Perdido Street, 9th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

CAO Montañó,

On August 24, the Council unanimously passed Ordinance Cal. No. 34,355 (29630 MCS), directing the escrow of the Operating Budget of the Law Department. We are asking to be on the same page about a few things. First, the ordinance does not affect the Law Department's personnel budget. Nothing should therefore slow down negotiating settlements/judgments, drafting and reviewing contracts, or representing the City generally.

Second, to avoid any confusion, the operating funds should be already moved from the operating budget code (200) to the debt service code (600) where they will remain until the Law Department develops a comprehensive plan along the lines of the one submitted by Safety and Permits nearly a year ago. Additionally, the Law Department is not authorized for any outside expenses. The Department should operate accordingly.

Third, the new law requires the Law Department to submit a monthly report to both your office and the City Council Budget Committee with a complete and detailed written accounting of any operating expenditures. The first report is due October 2.

Please call or email with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Giarrusso III".

Joseph I. Giarrusso III
CC: New Orleans City Council