

MARRAZZO & PLATT, P.C.

09-01752

Attorneys at Law

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January 14, 2010

Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
Stratford, NJ 08084

Attn: John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C. – Borough Clerk

RE: Conflict Solicitor – 2009
Our File No. 8249

Dear Mr. Keenan:

Enclosed please find our bill for work performed on behalf of the Borough of Stratford through December 31, 2009. The balance due on this bill is \$5,729.25. Previously, we have billed \$2,713.84 bringing the total billing of the work we have performed on behalf of the Borough of Stratford in our capacity as Conflict Solicitor for 2009 to \$7,843.09. As you know, we had estimated our time for the several matters we addressed including the investigation of the Mayor's activities, research as to the form of government and other matters to be approximately \$6,000.00. Therefore, the total billing has exceeded our estimate by \$1,843.09.

The purpose of this letter is to explain why we have exceeded our estimate and to request that our total bill be paid by the Borough of Stratford. First, as you know, our rate is \$125.00 per hour which is half of our normal hourly rate for private clients. Second, because of the nature of our investigation and the amount of documents which we had to review, our time spent in this matter exceeded our estimate. As I am sure you and the Governing Body are aware, an investigation of a sitting Mayor is no small matter and required extensive attention to detail and making sure that the opinions we gave were accurate. I believe this is reflected in the extensive Investigation Report which we presented to the Governing Body on December 28, 2009. As a result of our Investigation Report, the Governing Body did take action with regard to the Mayor's activities.

One of the problems with giving estimates is that sometimes the work actually done exceeds the estimated time because of unforeseen matters that nobody can anticipate. While an additional \$1,843.09 is a relatively small amount, we do not take the public expenditure of funds lightly and wanted to provide you with this letter of explanation.

*Pay only
6500 - total
for all bills since
6/30/09
per JK*

John D. Keenan, Jr., R.M.C. – Borough Clerk

January 14, 2010

Page Two

I am hoping based upon the quality of our work, the extensive nature of the Investigation Report and the fact that we have performed other matters including providing a legal opinion as to the form of government and the duties of the members of the Governing Body, the ability to perform this investigation in the first place and the actual investigation itself, the Governing Body will see its was to pay our legal fees in total.

If any member of the Governing Body has any further questions or would like to discuss this matter with me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me at this office.

Very truly yours,



STUART A. PLATT
For the Firm

SP/ch
Enclosure

DISBURSEMENTS

		Disbursements	Receipts
May-26-09	Copies	1.20	
May-27-09	Postage	1.39	
Jun-08-09	Fee for copy of citation	8.00	
	Postage	0.88	
	Copies	0.90	
Jun-24-09	Postage	0.88	
	Totals	<hr/> \$13.25	<hr/> \$0.00
	Total Fees & Disbursements		<hr/> \$1,625.75
	Previous Balance		\$0.00
	Previous Payments		\$0.00
	Balance Due Now		<hr/> \$1,625.75

MARRAZZO & PLATT, P.C.

40 Berlin Avenue
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

Ph: 856-784-1555

Fax: 856-784-8050

Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

July 31, 2009

Attention: John Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

File #: 8249

Inv #: 19033

RE: Conflict Solicitor - 2009

Total Fees & Disbursements

\$0.00

Previous Balance

\$1,625.75

Previous Payments

\$0.00

Balance Due Now

\$1,625.75

*cut off
8/11/09*

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Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

09-01215

August 31, 2009

Attention: John Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

File #: 8249

Inv #: 19176

RE: Conflict Solicitor - 2009

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Aug-06-09	Telephone clerk re: status	0.20	25.00	SP
Aug-19-09	Attend subcommittee meeting	1.00	125.00	SP
	Attend Subcommittee meeting	1.00	125.00	EJR
	Totals	2.20	\$275.00	
	Total Fees & Disbursements			\$275.00
	Previous Balance			\$1,625.75
	Previous Payments			\$1,625.75
	Balance Due Now			\$275.00

MARRAZZO & PLATT, P.C.

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09-01330

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Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

September 30, 2009

Attention: John Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

File #: 8249

Inv #: 19296

RE: Conflict Solicitor - 2009

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Sep-29-09	Review email from clerk and letter to clerk re: budget	0.20	25.00	SP
	Totals	0.20	\$25.00	
	Total Fees & Disbursements		\$25.00	
	Previous Balance		\$275.00	
	Previous Payments		\$0.00	
	Balance Due Now		\$300.00	

(Handwritten circle around \$25.00)

*JP
de
2477
10/13/09*

Total Fees & Disbursements

\$188.09

Previous Balance

\$300.00

Previous Payments

\$275.00

Balance Due Now

\$213.09

pd # 275 -
21477
pd # 25 -
21572

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Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
Stratford, New Jersey 08084

09-01641

November 30, 2009

Attention: John Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

File #: 8249

Inv #: 19573

RE: Conflict Solicitor - 2009

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Nov-05-09	Investigation re: issues concerning Mayor's actions	1.90	237.50	EJR
Nov-08-09	Review email from B. Angeli	0.20	25.00	SP
Nov-16-09	Investigation re: First Amendment issue	2.50	312.50	EJR
Nov-25-09	Review and reply to email from B. Angeli	0.20	25.00	SP
	Totals	4.80	\$600.00	

Total Fees & Disbursements

\$600.00

Previous Balance

\$213.09

Previous Payments

\$25.00

Balance Due Now

\$788.09

237.50+
25.00+
312.50+
25.00+
600.00+*

*ck-21592
11/10
#25.
de-21669
12/8
188.09*

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Stratford, New Jersey 08084

Ph: 856-784-1555

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Borough of Stratford
307 Union Avenue
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December 31, 2009

Attention: John Keenan, Jr., R.M.C.

File #: 8249
Inv #: 19697

RE: Conflict Solicitor - 2009

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Dec-04-09	Receive and review email from Boro Clerk re: mayoral vacancy issue; Investigation re: same	0.50	62.50	EJR
Dec-07-09	Investigation re: conduct of Mayor Gentless and potential remedies	2.90	362.50	EJR
Dec-08-09	Investigation re: removal of elected officials	4.10	512.50	EJR
Dec-09-09	Investigation re: Mayor's activities and civil/criminal recourse available	6.30	787.50	EJR
Dec-11-09	Review meeting minutes and sundry emails in connection with investigation of Mayor's activities and preparation of report re: same	2.50	312.50	EJR
Dec-16-09	Review forfeiture of public office statutes/case law in connection with preparation of investigation report	3.50	437.50	EJR
Dec-17-09	Prepare investigation report	3.50	437.50	EJR
Dec-21-09	Prepare report re: Mayor issue	1.50	187.50	JJC
Dec-22-09	Prepare report re: Mayor Gentless	1.00	125.00	SP
	Prepare investigation report	6.00	750.00	EJR
	Investigation re: issues concerning discussion	1.00	125.00	EJR

	of investigation report in public vs. executive session			
Dec-23-09	Prepare for and attend subcommittee meeting	2.50	312.50	EJR
Dec-24-09	Prepare Council meeting	1.00	125.00	SP
Dec-28-09	Review and reply to email from Councilwoman H. Tate	0.20	25.00	SP
	Attend meeting re: Mayor report	1.50	187.50	SP
	Investigation re: wiretapping statute violations in conjunction with preparation for presentation of report to Borough Council re: activities of Mayor	2.40	300.00	EJR
Dec-29-09	Review resolution and email to clerk	0.40	50.00	SP
	Totals	40.80	\$5,100.00	

DISBURSEMENTS

		Disbursements	Receipts
Dec-23-09	Copies (195)	29.25	
	Totals	\$29.25	\$0.00

Total Fees & Disbursements

Previous Balance	0.00	\$788.09
Previous Payments		\$188.09

Balance Due Now

\$5,129.25

\$788.09
\$188.09

\$5,729.25

Handwritten notes:
 6000 pd
 ✓ 21779
 job # 2 713-04+
 new bill 5-129-25+
 total 7 843-096
 estimate
 overage 843-096+
 amount
 new bill of 5-129-25+
 total format 3-286-160+