

City of Rockland

City Attorney

Mission Statement

Under the Rockland Code of Ordinances, Ch. 2, Art. IX, Sec. 2-902, the City Attorney is charged with the performance of all legal services for the City, including legal counsel to the City Council, the City Manager, and – through the City Manager – department heads and boards and committees of the City. The City Attorney renders legal opinions, defends claims, seeks payment of delinquent accounts receivable, helps draft ordinances, prosecutes civil violations, and attends all meetings of the City Council meetings to provide legal advice and analysis.

Previous Year's Highlights

- The City Attorney attended City Council meetings and rendered various legal opinions on matters before the Council;
- Represented the City in poverty abatement applications and hearings;
- Assisted the Assessor with assessment appeals;
- Assisted the City Managers with the preservation, reconveyance, and sale of lien-acquired property;
- Prepared license agreements for various parties' use of sidewalks and other public spaces;
- Counseled the Code Enforcement Office and Planning Board regarding various land use and development issues;
- Prepared contracts and closing documents for the implementation of the new CDBG Multi-Family Rehabilitation loan program;
- Prepared ordinance amendments codifying the City's Economic and Community Development and Water Pollution Control Departments, terminating the municipal fire alarm box system, and establishing regulations for private alarm systems; participated, as a PIO, in table top exercises with County and City officials in preparation for municipal emergencies; prepared and litigated various collection actions;
- Counseled the City Manager and Fish Pier Director regarding legal responsibility for repairs of damage to the Fish Pier;
- Represented Rockland to the Gateway 1 Implementation Steering Committee, including chairing a committee and drafting the new Corridor Coalition's bylaws;
- Drafted bill proposing the expansion of Service Fee assessed on certain exempt real estate;
- Drafted sick leave donation policy and ordinance amendment for the Personnel Director;
- Represented the City in grievances;

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- Drafted and counseled the City Council viz. the Bartlett Woods conditional rezoning agreement;
- At City Manager's request and pursuant to the City's adoption of the Gateway 1 Action Plan, drafted Comprehensive Plan amendments incorporating Action Plan local actions;
- Drafted and counseled the City Council re the Colonial Management conditional rezoning of 166 New County Road for a new methadone clinic;
- Counseled City employees, boards, and commissions regarding compliance with the Freedom of Access Act and prepared responses to requests for public records;
- Researched existing easements and negotiated and wrote new easements for cross-country sewer lines, connections for Maverick Street, manhole replacements, and portions of the Grace Street Interceptor located on private property.

Goals & Objectives

- Represent the City Counsel, City Manager, and – through the City Manager – Department Heads and committees when asked to do so;
- Improve the documentation of and procedure for the sale of lien-acquired property;
- Continue assisting the Tax Collector with the collection of delinquent personal property taxes;
- Review, weed, and digitize legal archive files in conformance with state law and the Legal Department's record retention policy.

5-year Goals & Objectives:

- Provide on-going legal counsel and representation;
- Research the scope of the City's authority to establish criteria for granting, denying, and revoking the various types of licenses and permits the City is allowed to issue under state law and, under direction from the Council, assist the Clerk in recommending procedures or amendments of Chapter 11 to implement the same;
- Assist the Planning Board with updating its site plan and subdivision review procedures and standards, including implementation of amendments of the Comprehensive Plan for the City's site plan and subdivision approval processes;
- Indexing and digitizing the City's history of real property acquisitions, sales, reconveyances, and easements;
- Digitizing legal archives, contracts, and deeds.