

August 28, 2020

**VIA E-MAIL:** [laura.jimenez@nuecesco.com](mailto:laura.jimenez@nuecesco.com)

Ms. Laura Garza Jimenez  
Nueces County Attorney  
Nueces County Courthouse  
Room 207  
901 Leopard St.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

RE: Cause No. 2020CCV-61064-2; *William A. Rickertsen v. City of Corpus Christi, Mayor Joe McComb, County of Nueces and County Judge Barbara Canales*; In the County Court at Law No. 2; Nueces County, Texas

Dear Ms. Jimenez:

This letter will confirm the engagement of Hartline Barger LLP, and in particular, the undersigned attorneys, in connection with the investigation and defense of the claims in the lawsuit referred to above brought against Nueces County and County Judge Barbara Canales directly or in connection with any claim or obligation to indemnify and/or hold harmless any other party by reason of written contract.

This letter will also confirm our understanding that we will bill for professional services at an hourly rate. Professional services performed by the undersigned attorneys will be billed at an hourly rate of \$350.00 per hour. Professional services by other partners in the firm will be billed at an hourly rate of \$300.00 per hour. Professional services by associates will be billed at an hourly rate of \$250.00 per hour. The undersigned attorneys will be responsible for the work performed in this case but reserve the right to request another partner or associate to assist with the investigation and prosecution of the claims. As part of our efforts to provide you with cost effective legal services, we may also utilize the services of paralegals and other support personnel for such matters as discovery, document organization and review. Paralegals are also used to provide technical assistance in the preparation of a case for trial and presentation of evidence in electronic format. Our hourly rate for paralegals is \$100.00 per hour.

In addition to legal fees, you will be responsible for litigation expenses this firm incurs in connection with our representation. Such expenses include office expenses attributable to the representation other than general overhead expense, document copying, photograph and video expenses and reproduction, mileage and travel expenses, airfare, postage, long distance telephone charges, fax expense, electronic or computer based research, non-reimbursed court costs and any sales or service taxes levied on any such

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litigation expenses. The reimbursable litigation expenses will also include any and all expenses or costs paid to or for persons, entities or businesses outside the firm that are related to the representation, including experts.

Our customary procedure is to send monthly statements to you for attorneys' fees and expenses which have been incurred during the previous month.

The claims asserted in this case may seek recovery of attorneys' fees from the adverse party. While the firm intends to seek recovery of fees from the adverse party on your behalf, please understand that a jury or court may or may not award such fee or may reduce the amount of such claims as part of your recovery. If that happens, you are still obligated to pay the firm for the fees set out in this agreement. Of course, any recovery of fees from any other party to the lawsuit is simply a part of your recovery and would not belong to this firm.

We will use our best efforts to represent you, but we cannot assure you that we will achieve a favorable outcome.

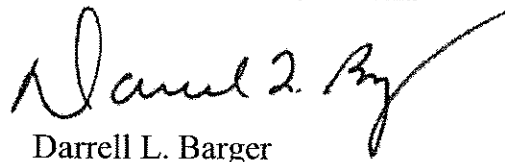
The attorney-client relationship is voluntary and either party has the right to terminate the representation upon written notification to the other. In the event of termination of the relationship prior to the conclusion of the potential litigation, you will remain liable for fees and expenses incurred by us or on your behalf prior to such termination. We will assist in the transition of this matter to any substitute counsel.

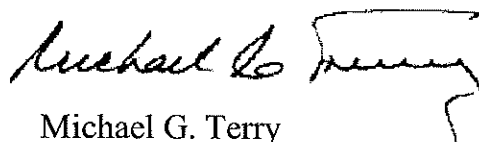
Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter and your agreement to its terms by signing below and returning a signed copy to our office via email.

Your kind attention in this regard is appreciated.

Cordially yours,

HARTLINE BARGER LLP

  
Darrell L. Barger

  
Michael G. Terry

MGT:mds

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AGREED:

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Ms. Laura Garza Jimenez  
Nueces County Attorney

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Ms. Barbara Canales  
Nueces County Judge