

CONSOLIDATED CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL SERVICES

Legal Division

1300 City Hall

August 18, 1971



Honorable Hans G. Tanzler, Jr.
Mayor
City of Jacksonville
City Hall
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Hans:

As you know, the announced term of my appointment as General Counsel was to be April 1, 1970 through July 1, 1971, and I took a leave of absence from my law firm on that basis.

My instructions from Judge Durden, yourself and members of the Council, and my objectives in serving in this capacity were initially outlined as follows:

1. To preserve, nurture, develop and polish the staff of the Legal Division to provide increasingly better level of service and capability and to strengthen and preserve the concept of central legal services.
2. To assist in development of charter revisions required after one and one-half years of the consolidated government's "shake down cruise" and to defend the charter against unfriendly amendments or attacks.
3. To complete the comprehensive ordinance code for the consolidated government.
4. To provide legal support for the development of strong programs in specific areas, such as collective bargaining, pollution control, utility regulation, the water and sewer program, urban renewal and downtown development, mass transit, and zoning.

I believe that I can report to you that these objectives have been adequately served by the Legal Division, and I will provide you with a more detailed and specific survey of these matters in my Annual Report of October 1, 1971.

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Another objective with which I was charged was to assist in selection and recruitment of a permanent General Counsel for the consolidated government. I have reviewed and discussed this matter constantly with Judge Durden, members of the Council and yourself, as well as many members of the Jacksonville Bar during the past year and it is my conclusion and recommendation that there are eminently qualified lawyers available in Jacksonville who can be persuaded to accept the responsibility of this office at least on the basis of an initial commitment to serve one or two years. Although I certainly feel that a General Counsel committed to a more or less permanent position is preferable assuming equal capability, I am convinced that the better course of action is to seek a man with the best possible potential even if it must be initially on the basis of a short term, rather than to put a high priority on the question of permanence.

I am led to this conclusion by consideration of the fact that I believe any man who serves as General Counsel will be, as Judge Durden and I were, sorely tempted and much desirous of remaining on. Secondly, I have concluded it may well be that a General Counsel can serve best if it is known by all that he is serving on a voluntary and short-term basis, with no vulnerability politically from the standpoint of his tenure or compensation. The obvious problem of continuity and depth arising out of such a system is offset in large measure by the continuity and depth provided by the staff which has now assumed primary responsibility in servicing the clients of the Legal Division subject only to supervision and major policy determinations by the General Counsel.

I had hoped that we would be able to select a General Counsel prior to my resignation, however, I am now convinced that unless and until I officially resign, there will continue to be reluctance on the part of qualified applicants to seriously consider taking the job because of the rumors that I may stay on. Accordingly, pursuant to long discussions with you in the past, I now tender my resignation effective September 10, 1971, with the recommendation that I be appointed by Council ordinance as Special Counsel to the City, performing the duties of the General Counsel until such time as you and the Council shall determine, or until a new General Counsel has taken office and undergone such orientation as is required.

I have discussed this matter with my law firm and they are willing to permit me to continue to serve as Special Counsel performing whatever duties are required as late as January 1, 1972, and if the need arises, to be available through the legislative

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session, which will take place during February and March, 1972. It is imperative, however, that I be available to my law firm for the performance of services in the private practice on at least a limited and increasing basis during the remainder of this calendar year.

I do want to take this opportunity to thank you and the consolidated government for the challenging, exciting and rewarding experience of my involvement in the past year and a half in this new government of which I am so proud and to offer my services in the future in any capacity in which I can best serve and make a contribution.

Yours very truly,

JAMES C. RINAMAN, JR.
General Counsel

JCRJr/sp