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Dear Honorable Council President Brosche,

This correspondence is in reply to your letter dated April 2, 2018.

Several weeks ago, in an effort to inject politics into the traditionally independent analysis of the Council Auditor's work, Kyle Billy made an erroneous assumption that an RFP for strategic initiatives was related to JEA. He made that assumption in an email directed by you without first asking the question of CAO Mousa or CFO Weinstein. Since both the CAO and CFO are in frequent contact with Mr. Billy, it seemed like an effort to generate headlines rather than to gather facts. This gesture, giving voice to unfounded accusations, has tainted the longstanding trust between my staff and Mr. Billy.

Later, as the JEA Select Committee met, Mr. Billy repeated this erroneous assumption leading members of the committee - including Chairman Crescimbeni - to request a commitment of CAO Mousa that no work related to this RFP or to JEA would be undertaken while the committee conducted its process. CAO Mousa confirmed in an email to Chairman Crescimbeni dated March 15 and was set to acknowledge this agreement at a public meeting, but debates about the work and posture of the committee prevented the discussion.

Later when Mr. Billy made the request of staff for an estimate of the impact JEA's sale would have on city debt calculations, the Finance Department - complying with the agreement to take no actions related to JEA - informed Mr. Billy such action was not appropriate. To the contrary, the Finance team would have specifically violated CAO Mousa's commitment to Chairman Crescimbeni.

The Finance Department has made no such analysis; therefore this analysis is not a matter of public record. Additionally, the Finance Department has informed me that the Council Auditor should already have access to the relevant data necessary to do such analysis, so we are not certain why they are not conducting this work themselves.

If you would like this analysis to be conducted by the Finance Department, please confer with Chairman Crescimbeni and let CAO Mousa know that City Council has reversed the position it stated just a few weeks ago. Clarity in the expectations of Council would be appreciated as we stand ready to be partners in a collaborative process.

Finally, I would like to note that your outreach on April 2nd has followed a disturbing trend. In a letter that was emailed to me 10:16 a.m., you describe it "as a follow up" to a phone call. In fact, we did not have a call. You left me a voicemail at 10:02 a.m. And, less than an hour later media calls were coming in quoting the letter.

At this point, the pretense of a desire for good faith communication with me is completely exposed. So I will treat all missives from you as part of a public relations effort, rather than an attempt to accomplish the important work we are obligated to do for the people of our city.

Sincerely,

Lenny Curry
Mayor