

JOHN A. MEHLICK
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for the City of Springfield, Illinois

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April 20, 2020

Via Hand Delivery

Springfield City Council Ethics Committee
Municipal Center West
300 South Seventh Street
Room 325
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: 2020-OIG-6

To The Springfield City Council Ethics Committee:

Pursuant to ordinance, I was given a matter to investigate as Alternate Inspector General since Roger Holmes had a conflict.

Complaint

An anonymous correspondence from Complainant alleged that Alderwoman Erin Conley was proposing additional union positions to the City payroll at the February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting and had a conflict of interest since she belongs to a union.

Actions

I reviewed the correspondence from Complainant, watched the February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting footage, had a conference with Alderwoman Conley, and researched matters regarding the case. Alderwoman Conley proposed six (6) positions to be added at the February 18, 2020 meeting; three (3) positions were AFSCME Union positions, and two (2) of those Union positions were added by a majority vote of the City Council. The other three non-union

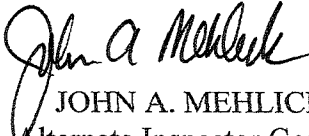
positions and the other Union position was not added. Alderwoman Conley felt that these positions were needed after discussing the needs of the City with various people.

Alderwoman Conley is a member of the AFSCME Union and a Union Steward with regard to her employment with the State of Illinois. When Alderwoman Conley was running for office, she received donations from various people and unions, including AFSCME. After discussing the matter with Alderwoman Conley, it is my opinion that there was not any conflict of interest regarding her actions at the February 18, 2020 meeting. Alderwoman Conley is well aware that if there is any conflict of interest with regard to her union membership or anything else, she would recuse herself from those matters before the City Council.

Recommendation

This matter should be closed and no referral is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN A. MEHLICK
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JAM:kb

cc: Mayor James O. Langfelder
James K. Zerkle, Corporation Counsel