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November 10, 2026

Via Email-smccartney@westorange.org
Mayor Susan McCartney and Members of the Council
Township of West Orange
66 Main Street
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Dear Mayor McCartney and Members of the Council:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of working with you this past year. It has been a very interesting, fulfilling and at times, challenging assignment. I am writing to inform you in advance that I will not be seeking reappointment for calendar year 2027, so that you have ample time to prepare for the same.

I know that the Administration has recently posted Requests for Proposals and I am sure that you will find submissions on behalf of a number of qualified attorneys. I would be more than happy to recommend qualified attorneys to submit for this position as well, if so requested.

As I had indicated in our budgetary meeting, the legal needs of the Township truly necessitate the provision of a full-time in-house Assistant Township Attorney, in addition to the Township Attorney, and I am certain that the Assistant Attorney will also require the needs of a full time paralegal and dedicated offices in Town Hall.

In the final analysis, such a change should result in some cost savings to the Township, but the legal needs and demands of the Township are so vast that this suggestion is also made to provide greater efficiency.

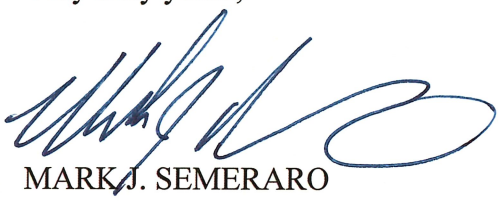
I ask that you kindly make your appointment for the 2027 Township Attorney position promptly at the reorganization meeting and I will gladly assist my successor with the provision of all information I possess to ensure a smooth transition.

I also suggest that you pass a resolution in December with an accompanying professional contract be executed before year's end to permit me to continue to provide those services necessary to facilitate the transition and ensure that the Township does not fall into default with regard to any litigation that my office is managing for it.

This can be done by way of a professional contract in a non-fair non-open process, as no political contributions have been nor will be made on my or my firm's behalf. Kindly advise if you agree with the same and I can prepare it for execution before the end of the year.

Again, representing the Township has been a great honor and I truly wish each and every one of you God's blessings and continued success.

Very truly yours,



MARK J. SEMERARO

MJS/rb

cc: Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C. (via email)
Peter F. Smeraldo, Jr., Business Administrator (via email)