

February 9, 2018

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hon. Rusty Bailey
Mayor, City of Riverside
Riverside City Hall
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Charter Interpretation of Mayor's Veto Power

Dear Mayor Bailey:

It has been communicated to me that the Riverside City Charter does not authorize the Mayor to hire special legal counsel without the consent of the City Council. Without researching and confirming the matter, and instead desiring to avoid a partisan dispute over the issue and recognizing that the scope of services I agreed to perform in accordance with your initial request – that is, the research and preparation of an independent, objective and impartial analysis of the provision of the Riverside City Charter empowering the Mayor to veto formal actions of the City Council – has been concluded, I will not be providing any further legal advice or assistance regarding the matter. Additionally, I have not to date billed either your office or the City for any of the services that were performed, and I have determined not to do so. Finally, as you know, the opinion on the issue that was requested and was expressed in my analysis, just like any opinion on the issue similarly expressed by others, is simply that – an opinion – and is not determinative of any legal issues that may be in dispute.

I again thank you for thinking of me and have appreciated the opportunity to work with you.

Very truly yours,

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP


Philip D. Kohn

cc: City Attorney's Office (via e-mail)