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Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 12:09 PM

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Subject: Is your deferral legal?

Dear Mayor and City Councilors:

I am curious about how you intend to implement your promise to defer the ordinances (2024-055 and 2024-056) providing raises.

According to State law (GL, Part I, Title VII, Chapter 43, Section 21) ordinances are needed to amend ordinances already passed. This would appear to apply to this particular circumstance. When and how will you prepare such ordinances?

Further, it would appear that there was some sort of meeting among the mayor and city councilors about this deferral. If so, my understanding is that those meetings should have been open to the public (GL, Part 1, Title VII, Chapter 43, Section 18). Is there a legal reasoning that this was not held in accordance with that law? Please note that the exclusion for special meetings was repealed in 2009.

Finally, I have heard that this deferral may occur by the raise amounts going in the budget surplus. This is still money out of the pockets of Quincy property tax payers. Therefore, your action appears to be without substance.

I am also curious about how the pension will be calculated. Your raises are now the law. So does the pension accumulate on the increased amount, regardless of the deferral?

I have already sent these questions to Quincy City Solicitor Timmins. However I have not heard from him. Except, that a malware message came from Mr. Timmins (it infected my computer). Thus, I will not copy him on this email.

The raises were passed without a public hearing, despite their impact on the budget. During the budget public hearing I asked if there would be a public hearing about the raises. I never received an answer, nor was there ever a public hearing. This lacks the transparency and accountability that would result in public trust. This unusual approach to deferring the raises looks like an empty effort to silence the people who have repeatedly voiced their disapproval.

I am copying this letter to the State Attorney General, so that she can also provide some insight into this issue.

Regards,

Kathleen Thrun

Wollaston, MA 02170

cc. Massachusetts State Attorney General Andrea C. Campbell