

Law Offices of
FUERSTE, CAREW, JUERGENS & SUDMEIER, P.C.

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November 30, 2023

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City of Dyersville
Attn: Mick Michel
340 1st Avenue E
Dyersville, IA 52040

Re: Legal Fees

Dear Mick:

We have been reviewing the hourly rates that we have been charging for legal services, and have concluded that increases are appropriate in the rates that we charge for the types of services that we have been performing for the City. Our firm has historically charged the City hourly fees at rates significantly discounted from the rates we charge non-municipal clients. We have been charging \$165.00 per hour for our senior attorneys and \$155.00 for our associates since March, 2018. Our costs of operation and inflation have both increased since then.

Beginning with services performed on and after January 1, 2024, we intend to charge fees calculated based on the following rates in all Dyersville matters, unless other arrangements are made in a specific matter:

- Fees for time spent by senior attorneys will be calculated at the rate of \$195.00 per hour;
- Fees for time spent by junior associates will be calculated at the rate of \$175.00 per hour; and
- Fees for time spent by paralegals will be calculated at the rate of \$155.00 per hour.

We believe these rates to be reasonable and still will be substantially discounted from the usual and customary charges for legal services in this community. For example, our most senior attorneys currently bill non-municipal clients at \$250.00 - \$275.00 per hour, depending on the matter. The proposed hourly rate is still less than what inflation would demand.

As always, we will continue to be mindful of the need to work efficiently, so that staffing

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Mick Michel
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assignments and the time charged are necessary and appropriate to the task at hand. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, about any of our statements submitted in the future, or any other aspect of our relationship, please contact me, as we value the opportunity to assist the City in its legal matters. Our goal is always the City Council's continued satisfaction with the working relationship between our firm and Dyersville.

Very truly yours,

FUERSTE, CAREW,
JUERGENS & SUDMEIER, P.C.

BY: *Jenny L. Weiss*
JENNY L. WEISS

JLW/sew