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Since 1975

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March 17, 2023

Mary Elizabeth Geiger
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TO: Mayor Joel Kincaid, City of Fruita
City of Fruita City Council
Mike Bennett, City Manager – City of Fruita

FROM: Mary Elizabeth Geiger, Esq.

RE: *Increase in Garfield & Hecht, P.C. hourly rate to match other municipal clients*

When the City of Fruita initially engaged Paul Wisor and this firm as the City Attorney, the hourly rate charged by Garfield & Hecht, P.C. to the City was set at \$5.00 less per hour than our regular municipal rate. Therefore, currently, we charge the City \$225/hour (other municipalities are at \$230/hour) unless it is a developer reimbursable matter and then we charge \$285/hour (other municipalities are at \$290/hour). The Rules of Professional Conduct allow us to raise our rates by 10% each year, automatically, but this still keeps the City at \$5.00 less per hour than our other municipal clients. Therefore, I am requesting that Council approve this year's increase to go just above a 10% change to bring the City to \$250/hour (rather than \$245/hour) to match our other municipal clients, and \$310 per hour (instead of \$305/hour) for developer reimbursable matters.