

October 22, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

Tracey Messick  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Jonesboro  
[tmessick@jonesboroga.gov](mailto:tmessick@jonesboroga.gov)

**RE: Formal Engagement Letter**

Dear Mrs. Messick:

This engagement letter responds to yours of this same date, requesting that Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) conduct an independent investigation into allegations that have recently been made against Mayor Donya L. Sartor involving purported financial irregularities. While your request does not so mention, we will also investigate others' fiscal activities during the ongoing investigation as the evidence may support. We accept the invitation under the terms set out herein.

This investigation will include interviews of elected officials, City employees, relevant witnesses, and perhaps others connected to the City's finances. As far as needed documentation, this will be an ongoing process, beginning with the first interview serving as the jumping off point. We will want to name an employee liaison to assist in the document retrieval process, and in the scheduling of witness interviews and the like.

We agree to provide a comprehensive report of our findings. We understand the City is currently being forensically audited. We propose that you allow HBS to rely on the findings of that audit, as it is likely we would have recommended such an audit take place.

We will perform legal services at the following rates:

Phil Friduss - \$375 per hour  
Amy Cowan - \$350 per hour  
Stuart Sumner \$275 per hour  
Alex Whittemore \$175 per hour

Billing will be monthly, and professional services will be entered in increments of .1 of an hour. Other professionals from the Firm may be utilized, and you will be informed of the intent to utilize them prior to their performing services with respect to the investigation. HBS will bill the City monthly, and payments are due within 30 days after receipt of the invoice corresponding with the prior month's legal activities.

ATLANTA, GA

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The Parties may terminate this agreement at any time with 30 days' notice.

We are honored to be considered for this project. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.**

/s/ Phillip Friduss

Phillip E. Friduss

cc: Mayor Donya Sartor

Mr. Alfred Dixon, Councilman

Mr. Don Dixon, Councilman

Mr. Bobby Lester, Councilman

Ms. Asiah Miller, Councilwoman

Ms. Tracey Messick, Councilwoman

Mr. Billy Powell, Councilman

Attorney David Dreyer, City Attorney

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10/27/25