

Law Offices
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December 8, 2025

TO: Betty Sterling, Clerk
RE: 2026 Law Budget (for Borough Attorney)

If I have the good fortune of being re-appointed Borough Attorney, I would ask you to consider the following summary of hours worked in excess of budgeted hours over the past 2 years and 11 months.

2023

Annual Borough Attorney Budget: \$55,000.00
Hours Assumed by Annual Budget @ \$125 per hour: 440 hours
Total Hours Recorded for Year @ \$125: 555 hours
Total Hours Recorded in Excess of Annual Budget @ \$125: **115 hours**

2024

Annual Borough Attorney Budget: \$55,000.00
Hours Assumed by Annual Budget @ \$130 per hour: 423 hours
Total Hours Recorded for Year @ \$130: 497 hours
Total Hours Recorded in Excess of Annual Budget @ \$130: **74 hours**

2025¹

Annual Borough Attorney Budget: \$60,000.00
Hours Assumed by Annual Budget @ \$135 per hour: 444 hours
Total Hours Recorded in 1st 11 months of Year @ \$135: 710 hours
Total Hours Recorded in Excess of Annual Budget @\$135: **265 hours**

Hours recorded in excess of budgeted hours averaged 151 hours per year for the 3 years.

I ask that total budgeted hours for 2026 be increased by half that average amount, or 75 hours. I ask that the hourly rate be increased by \$5 to \$140 per hour, to begin the steep climb back to market rates. The 2026 budget would therefore increase by \$10,500 for the year, to a total of \$70,500.

. Thank you for your consideration. Walter

¹ The 2025 data do not include hours recorded in connection with the PILOT Petition for Certification or the Pension Appeal