

From: Patrick Ford

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:43 PM

To: Andy Lang <alang@bridgeportwv.gov>; Andy Lang <andy@gallandcompany.com>; Clayton Rice <crice@bridgeportwv.gov>; John Wilson <jwilson@bridgeportwv.gov>; Hank Murray <hmurray@bridgeportwv.gov>; Don Burton <dburton@bridgeportwv.gov>; Jason Campbell <jcampbell@bridgeportwv.gov>; Jeff Smell <jsmell@bridgeportwv.gov>; jeff.smell@gmail.com

Subject: FW: NEXT STEPS: Billing update

From: William Ihlenfeld <wihlenfeld@flannerygeorgalis.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 3:13 PM

To: Patrick Ford <pford@bridgeportwv.gov>

Subject: Re: NEXT STEPS: Billing update

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WARNING: This is an external email. Please exercise caution. Think Before You Click!

Hi Pat,

Thanks for the email. We have stopped our investigation in accordance with the wishes of City Council. I previously shared with you the total amount we've billed as of March 24, and the additional cost to finish the sexual harassment report, to include document review, research, and its preparation, will not exceed \$15,000.

Regarding the second part of the investigation, we have identified

- Improper favors to influence contracts;
- Failure to enforce and adhere to bidding specifications;
- Suspicious bids for major projects;
- Only select City employees negotiating with certain contractors;
- Improper communications with contractors during the pre-bid process;

- Favoritism shown to specific contractors during the pre-bid period.

As I explained to Council on Monday, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We only gained access to the emails of the primary target this week, and if my experience as a federal prosecutor taught me anything, it's that email accounts contain treasure troves of information in **public corruption** cases like this one. I say all of this because without looking at the emails, it's difficult to provide an estimate of the cost to complete this part of the investigation.

We will continue to stand down as ordered by Council unless I hear differently. I assume that Council will come out of executive session to vote to close the investigation since that's how it was opened. I'm happy to attend that meeting if necessary to answer any questions.

Regards,

Bill

William Ihlenfeld

Partner-In-Charge

Post Office Box 9

Wheeling, WV 26003

(304) 308-6699 (Direct Dial)

(304) 280-6135 (Mobile)

wihlenfeld@flannerygeorgalis.com

www.flannerygeorgalis.com

Charlotte | Cleveland | Columbus | Detroit | Pittsburgh | West Virginia

FLANNERY | GEORGALIS
LLC

The information contained in this email transmission and any attachments thereto is intended for use by only the addressee(s) and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email and any attachments or other communication of contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify William Ihlenfeld at (304) 308-6699 and permanently delete the original copy or printout.

From: Patrick Ford <pford@bridgeportwv.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 7:23 AM
To: William Ihlenfeld <wihlenfeld@flannerygeorgalis.com>
Subject: NEXT STEPS: Billing update

Hi Bill,

After you left our Executive Session this past Monday, we had further discussions about your investigation. City Council directed me to tell you the following:

1. *Stop work immediately.*
2. *Obtain the total money spent to-date (thank you for the \$70,930).*
3. *Total money required to complete the investigation for (a) sexual harassment investigation and (b) investigation around procurement practices.*

I will then schedule a meeting with them, in Executive Session, to review the information you provide above and they will advise me of next steps.

Thank you,

Pat

Patrick B. Ford

City Manager



PO Box 1310

515 West Main Street

Bridgeport, WV 26330

Cell: 412-417-1694

Office: 304.842.8225

www.bridgeportwv.gov

From: William Ihlenfeld <wihlenfeld@flannerygeorgalis.com>

Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:39 PM

To: Patrick Ford <pford@bridgeportwv.gov>

Subject: Billing update

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT WARNING: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.
Think Before You Click!**

Good evening, Pat,

Thus far, the City has paid \$31,600 to my firm and we have unbilled fees and costs of \$39,330, for a total of \$70,930. I will have a figure for you very soon on the cost for us to finish the sexual harassment report. Please let me know if there is any additional information that you need.

Regards,

Bill

William Ihlenfeld

Partner-In-Charge

Post Office Box 9

Wheeling, WV 26003

(304) 308-6699 (Direct Dial)

(304) 280-6135 (Mobile)

wihlenfeld@flannerygeorgalis.com

www.flannerygeorgalis.com

Charlotte | Cleveland | Columbus | Detroit | Pittsburgh | West Virginia

FLANNERY | GEORGALIS
LLC

The information contained in this email transmission and any attachments thereto is intended for use by only the addressee(s) and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this email and any attachments or other communication of contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify William Ihlenfeld at (304) 308-6699 and permanently delete the original copy or printout.