

*Law Director*  
THOMAS LOBE, L.P.A.

*Director of Finance*  
FRANK J. BRICHACEK, JR.

*Assistant Finance Director*  
DAWN SNYDER

*Engineer*  
PIETRO A. DI FRANCO, P.E., SI,  
LEED AP, CPESC

*Building Commissioner*

*Safety Director*  
ROBERT M. WEGER

# City of Willoughby Hills

35405 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094-9195  
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Robert M. Weger, Mayor

*Council*  
CHRISTOPHER L. BIRO  
NANCY E. FELLOWS  
DAVID M. FIEBIG  
CHRISTOPHER HALLUM  
JANET MAJKA  
LAURA PIZMOHT  
JOHN PLECNIK

*Council Clerk*  
VICTORIA A. SAVAGE, CMC

October 4, 2017

Mr. Stephen L. Byron  
Walter Haverfield, LLC  
1300 E. Ninth Street, #3500  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mr. Byron:

On Thursday, September 28, 2017, I spent the evening with our injured Police officers following the unfortunate shooting that occurred earlier in the day. I was unable to attend the Council meeting that evening and advised Council that I would not be in attendance. I had read the agenda and legislation in advance and did not see any reason why my not being in attendance may be a concern. I made sure to provide Council with the proposal from Zashin and Rich, who I had hoped would be confirmed by Council to handle the pending Unfair Labor Practice filed by the proposed AFSCME Union through the State Employment Relations Board (SERB).

Later that evening, I learned that you had been appointed "Acting Law Director" by Council in my absence. I was surprised to learn this as I had seen you at a seminar a week earlier and you made no mention of your interest or intent to take on this role. I learned that not only did you have an interest and intent, but you wrote Ordinance 2017-70 on Tuesday prior to the Council meeting in order to accommodate this plan of Council's.

I know you pride yourself on "knowing our laws and Charter". I can tell you, however, that the actions taken recently by you and by our City Council are illegal, unethical, and at minimum, unprofessional. I have outlined the various times our Charter and State law were violated and have enclosed a copy for your review.

This veto is my privilege as Mayor, with the best interest of our residents in mind. If Council chooses to override my veto, I fully intend to move to a court of law to grant an injunction and will not pay you until a Court of Law makes that determination.

While I am sorry it has come to this with you, Steve, I have attempted to contact several members of your firm without much success, including speaking to Mr. Ralph Spitaleri (who promised to call back but had not), and Mr. Todd Hunt, whom I spoke to once and a second time left a message on his voicemail. I am surprised and saddened by the actions of your firm, but at

least I had the decency to tell you of my intentions up front, unlike you and the Council of the City of Willoughby Hills.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Weger, Mayor/Safety Director

RMW:gm

Enc.

cc: Finance Director Frank Brichacek  
County Prosecutor Chuck Coulson  
Attorney Todd Hunt of Walter Haverfield, LLC  
Attorney Ralph Spitaleri of Walter Haverfield, LLC  
Ohio Ethics Commission  
State Auditor David Yost  
Attorney General Mike DeWine  
Cleveland.com  
News-Herald  
Willoughby Hills Council Members and Council Clerk