

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Office of Corporation Counsel



What we Do??

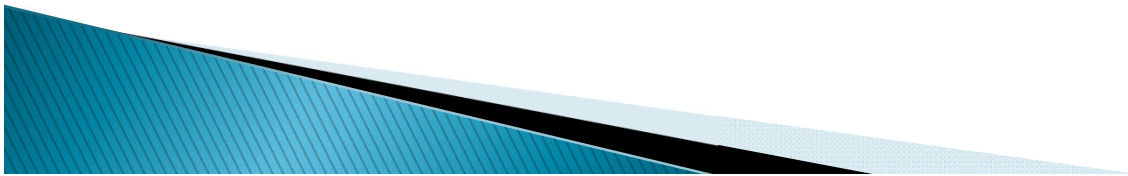


❖ **What do City attorneys actually do?**

- ❖ We perform the same functions as private practice attorneys
- ❖ We are legal advisors and counselors, except we provide guidance to the City staff, to City boards, to the City Manager, the Mayor and City Council for a wide variety of legal topics.
- ❖ We provide advice so that the City can effectively achieve its goals and objectives in a legal way.

❖ **Where do we Practice:**

- ❖ All New York State Courts and Federal United States Courts.



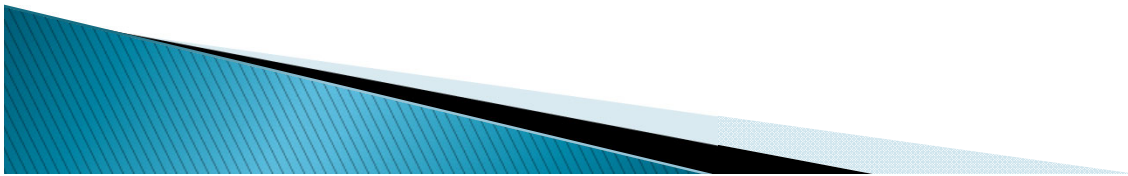
Areas of Practice

Contracts;
Claims;
Litigation;
Open Meetings Law and FOIL Requests;
Foreclosures;
Tax Assessment Cases;
Labor, Employment and Union Matters;
Real Property, including sales, purchases and Leases;
Housing Court Violations;
Legislative Review, Interpretations and Drafting;
Bankruptcy;
Intellectual Property;
Finance law and compliance;
Vehicle & Traffic;
Environmental and Health and Safety Laws with regards to Water, Sewer;
Arbitration;
Zoning and Planning;
Code Enforcement Matters;
Plumbing; and
Human rights etc...



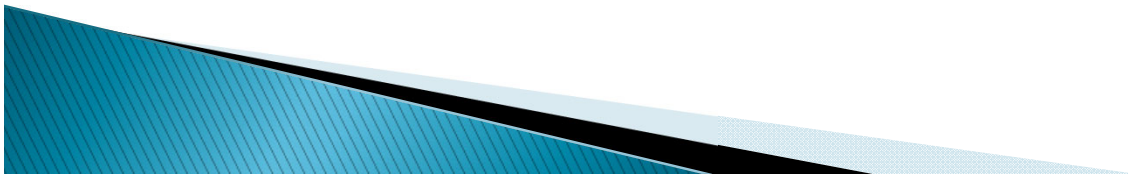
Estimated Volume of Work in 2018/2019

- ▶ 160 Resolutions, 8 Ordinances, 1 local law;
- ▶ 3 Collective Bargaining Agreements (CSEA, APD, and Professional CSEA, as well as SMP);
- ▶ 8 Tax Assessment litigation cases;
- ▶ 10–20 Housing Violation cases monthly;
- ▶ 20–40 Contractual matters;
- ▶ 13 Codes/Housing Court Litigated Actions;



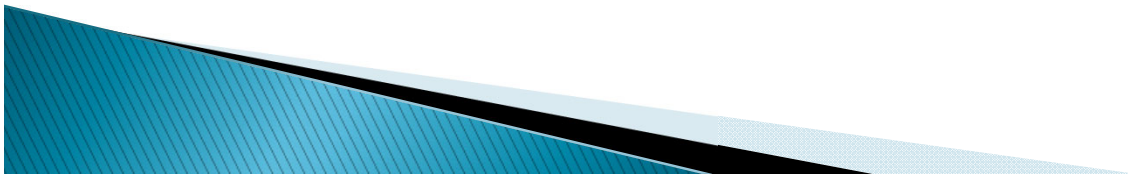
Estimated Volume of Work contin.

- ▶ 1 Arbitration Hearing;
- ▶ 15–20 Employee matters;
- ▶ 80 Personal Injury/Property Claims;
- ▶ 200 Tax Foreclosures;
- ▶ 50–75 FOIL Requests;
- ▶ 35 Real Property Transactions (including tax sales)
- ▶ 1 Pending Litigation



Operating Budgets

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020 Requested	Percent Change
Corporation Counsel	\$367,045	\$381,020	\$381,112	\$355,865	-6.6%
Operating Budget (less consulting Fees)	\$12,229	\$9,827	\$13,330	\$13,330	None
FTE	3	3.5	3	3	None



Changes in Services or Other Significant Changes

- ▶ Reduction in Employees
 - As of July 1, 2018, Full time Attorneys reduced to 2
- ▶ Reduction in Health Insurance
- ▶ Significant Reduction in Consultant Fees



Reimbursements, Fines and Fees

- ▶ LISC “Round 2”:
 - We expect to 2 more years of reimbursements.
- ▶ Civil Penalties for Housing Violation Cases:
 - Approximately \$45,000 in penalties sought in housing/codes cases were received in 2018/2019.
- ▶ Appearance Ticket Fees:
 - \$100 charges for every Court appearance
 - Attorney Garland appears on approximately 10–20 City court cases monthly.
 - As of February, the City had received \$2,975 in paid fees, and \$21,100 in receivables to be placed onto the 2019 tax bills, if unpaid.

