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August 29, 2024

Ms. Dawn Reitan
Inslee Best
Skyline Tower, Suite 1500
10900 NE 4th Street
Bellevue, Washington 98004

Re: City of Kenmore – Supplemental report on investigation of citizens’ complaints

Dear Ms. Reitan:

On August 26, 2024, I issued an investigative report concerning allegations from two citizens that City of Kenmore staff, especially City Manager Rob Karlinsey, provided false or incomplete information to the city council, which induced the council to purchase property for a new public works center. As I noted in my report, the citizen complainants, Stacey Valenzuela and Patrick O’Brien, initially expressed interest in being interviewed as part of my investigation, but when I attempted to schedule with them, they stopped responding.

On August 28, Stacey Valenzuela called me. Although I had submitted my report, I heard her out. I thanked her for the call and assured her that the city appreciates her concern.

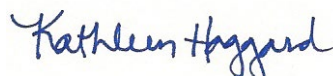
Valenzuela confirmed that the city employee she referred to in her complaint by the initials “BH” is Building Official Brian Hampson. She alleged that the owner of the firehouse property told her, in 2021 and recently, that he was willing to sell his property to the city. She stated that city staff repeatedly told the city council that the primary, if not only, reason the firehouse property was not suitable was because the property owner was unwilling to sell.

As I noted in my original report, city staff and the council eliminated the firehouse property from consideration based on access and anticipated price. Accordingly, whether the property owner was willing to sell became irrelevant. The city maintains that the firehouse property does not suit the city’s objectives. The findings in my report remain unchanged.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

HAGGARD & GANSON LLP



Kathleen Haggard