

2014 LAW DEPARTMENT LEGAL COMPLIANCE REPORT - DEFERRAL REQUEST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Request to defer 2014 Law Department report regarding legal compliance to Audit Committee's 2014 March 20 meeting, to be considered in conjunction with the Department's annual insurance coverage report.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

That Audit Committee approve Administration's request to defer the Law Department's 2014 report on legal compliance to the Committee's 2014 March 20 meeting, to be considered in conjunction with the Department's annual insurance coverage report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2005 March 7, Council considered Report AC2005-06, Audit Committee Terms of Reference. Included in Attachment 2 to that report and identified as an area of potential future focus was a reference to an annual report from the City Solicitor regarding legal compliance. The Law Department has provided these reports to Audit Committee since that time.

For many years, the Law Department has also provided Audit Committee and Council with an annual report regarding The City's insurance coverage. The 2014 insurance coverage report is scheduled to be considered at the Committee's 2014 March 20 meeting.

BACKGROUND

Members of the Law Department provide legal, risk management, claims, and corporate security advice to the Mayor and Council, City Manager, General Managers, and business units throughout the corporation in order to help protect The City's interests for all Calgarians.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The current City Solicitor was appointed 2013 June 29. For the past eight months, in addition to ensuring the delivery of legal, risk management, claims, and corporate security advice and services in regard to flood response and recovery and The City's more usual operations, the Law Department's management team has been engaged in:

- Re-examining the Department's vision, mission and values; and
- Analyzing the Department's current state in terms of employee engagement and client service and identifying methods to enhance both.

With respect to client service, the extent to which members of the Law Department can assist clients in identifying, managing, mitigating, and monitoring risk, securing legal compliance and achieving Council, corporate and business unit objectives is directly related to the timeliness of Department members' involvement in a matter, lawsuit or project. The Department's management team continues to seek opportunities to enhance Department members' profiles and ensure early involvement in providing support and advice to assist in clients' decision making and operations.

From the questions Audit Committee members asked when the Law Department's 2013 legal compliance report was considered, the City Solicitor is aware of the members' desire to receive

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more detailed information in regard to the Department's role in the corporation and interaction with its clients. Given that some of these questions related to claims and insurance coverage, the City Solicitor believes it would be optimal to further discuss these matters in conjunction with the Department's annual insurance coverage report which will be considered by Audit Committee on 2014 March 20.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Not applicable.

Strategic Alignment

Administration recommends that Audit Committee consider the Law Department's 2014 legal compliance report in conjunction with its annual insurance coverage report.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Not applicable.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

This report has no budget implications.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This report has no budget implications.

Risk Assessment

There is no risk associated with adopting the recommendation in this report.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Law Department wishes to satisfy the Audit Committee's desire to receive more detailed information in regard to the Department's role in the corporation and its interaction with its clients. The City Solicitor believes it would be optimal to further discuss these matters in conjunction with the Department's annual insurance coverage report. Therefore, Administration recommends that Audit Committee defer the Law Department's 2014 report on legal compliance to the Committee's 2014 March 20 meeting, to be considered in conjunction with the Department's annual insurance coverage report.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None.