



2018 ANNUAL REPORT: DEPARTMENT OF LAW

R. Todd Hunt, Esq. is the City's Director of Law. He and under his direction, the Public Law Group at the law firm of Walter | Haverfield LLP where Mr. Hunt is a long-time partner, are a dedicated team of strategic legal counselors and professional staff committed to serving the City of Richmond Heights by facilitating creative, customized solutions to municipal issues and problems, as well as defending the City in civil court actions. They have so served the City of Richmond Heights since 1995.

The Director of Law also supervises the prosecution of criminal misdemeanor offenses in the Lyndhurst Municipal Court which serves Richmond Heights. Michael E. Cicero of the law firm of Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper, LLC, has served as the City Prosecutor since August 2016. Mr. Cicero has a wealth of experience prosecuting for municipalities over many years and in the Lyndhurst Municipal Court.

Notable Accomplishments:

In 2018, the Department of Law continued to guide City officials through many legal issues with day-to-day advice to the Mayor, Council and Department/Division heads related to many municipal matters, employment and labor law advice, preparing legislation on a variety of matters, and defending the City in court actions. Of note are economic development initiatives embarked upon by the City, including use of tax incentives, to incentivize property development and job creation in the City. The Law Department and Walter | Haverfield performed all of the legal work on these initiatives. Most significant of these initiatives was the relocation of Selman & Company headquarters and facilities from another Ohio city and another state to Richmond Heights with a significant payroll. The Department also performed the legal work in zoning, planning and other areas to facilitate a mixed use development and re-purposing of a significant part of Richmond Town Square mall.

Throughout 2018, the City's Prosecutor continued to provide a high level of prosecution services to the City and its Divisions of Police and Building & Housing, including training and advice to police officers. The Prosecutor, along with the Commissioner of Building & Housing, also stepped up property maintenance enforcement of commercial and multi-family residential properties in order to maintain and enhance property values in the City.

Moving Forward:

The Department of Law, under the leadership of R. Todd Hunt as Director of Law, will continue to provide the same high level of legal services to the City and all of its City officials as it has done over the past 23 years, focusing on legal assistance with the City's problem-solving, professional legal advice, litigation prevention, assertive defense of civil actions, and assertive prosecution of misdemeanor offenses.