

John (Jake) Jaksetic, CPA
Auditor, City of Toledo

October 31, 2022 - via email

Members of Toledo City Council:

As my direct supervisors, I'm bringing the following matters to your attention pursuant to O.R.C. Section 4113.52. I have been told that there will be a vote held to terminate me as City Auditor at a Council meeting on November 1, 2022. As you weigh your vote on my future, I am providing you some information which suggests that I am being targeted for termination as retaliation for performing my job responsibilities under the City Charter.

Within the past two weeks, I have learned from phone conversations with Accounts Commissioner Thomas Buckley that staff members in the Finance Department have for some time been unhappy with the performance of Deloitte Consulting, which is the Finance Department's SAP consultant. Deloitte Consulting is also the SAP consultant to the Department of Public Utilities and a party to a \$10,000,000 contract for ongoing work on the system wide water meter replacement project. Commissioner Buckley told me that IT Director Anne Bennett would not allow the Finance Department to advertise a bid for a new consultant to replace Deloitte, or better yet, re-hire the previous consultant. This circumstance causes concern for me, because I have heard similar statements from a number of other staff members regarding vendors being selected for IT related services.

During a phone conversation I had on October 21, 2022 with a Johnson Controls representative, I learned the reason the Finance staff has to remain with Deloitte. The representative stated to me that Deloitte was not their preferred consultant for the water meter project but they were chosen by IT Director Bennett because she is friends with Deloitte's Managing Director. The Johnson Controls representative also said that a City administrator wanted the Deloitte contract payments for the water meter project to be paid directly to Deloitte Consulting by Johnson Controls but that she had refused that arrangement. She stated, "Johnson Controls was not going to be Anne Bennett's purse". These facts should cause concern not only for you as Council members, but for system wide ratepayers as well.

Regarding the Block Communications fiber-optic cable relocation lawsuit (also referred to as the Summit Street lawsuit), of all the documents and information I was able to obtain and share, there was one item that I was not able to obtain. During a 2020 phone conversation with the Law Director, I asked for the document that places responsibility for the relocation costs of utility owned infrastructure on the City. His response was, "This all happened with one phone call". He also stated that, "Buckeye Broadband was the most adversely affected by this project". I have since learned who called whom and what was said. I also learned that a document does exist. This document was an opinion constructed by a local law firm and most likely paid for by Block Communications based upon a falsehood. That falsehood was that the utility owner in this matter had previously paid for relocation costs during the Summit Street resurfacing project. The logic behind this was they should not have to pay again. The documents in the resurfacing bid book contradict this. Also, the Ohio Revised Code is clear regarding this situation. If a utility owner is required to move their infrastructure again, they are still responsible for the relocation costs.

This false statement was first communicated to me by the now-Transportation Director and subsequently by the Law Director. The Law Director also made this false statement to at least one Council Member. Had the utility owner in this matter incurred relocation costs during the re-surfacing project, there would have been right-of-way-opening permits submitted and approved. If you reference my email communication with Dale Emch, these are the documents I was requesting from Doug Stephens. They were never provided to me because they do not exist. Any reasonable person understanding all of the information

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pertaining to this matter would know exactly what the motivation was behind this nearly \$1,000,000 expenditure of taxpayer's funds: advancing the political aspirations of the Mayor and the Law Director.

The late Justice Douglas informed me the Mayor would be coming after me for bringing this matter to your attention. I wish I could tell him how correct he was.

The recently announced resignation of the City's Public Service Director should also cause you alarm. Especially if he is willing to share with you what he shared with me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "JAKE". The letters are stylized and slanted to the right.

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