



City of Orange Township

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News Release

For Release: Immediate

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Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. appoints part-time City Attorney for Labor Matters. Cites probable savings of more than \$200,000.

Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. today announced the appointment of Joseph Wenzel, Esq. to serve as part time City Attorney at a salary of Forty-Seven Thousand Dollars per year. Mr. Wenzel will handle all labor negotiations, arbitration cases, PERC matters, some AOL cases, and some Title 59 matters.

Statement by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins:

“Appointing Joseph Wenzel as part time City Attorney will permit us to save some of the money that Orange has been spending for legal services. Our City Attorney anticipates a savings of more than \$200,000 over five years. We will continue to look for other opportunities to save taxpayers money by reducing the outsourcing of services.”

Statement by City Attorney Marvin T. Braker:

“Joseph Wenzel is an extremely experienced and capable labor attorney. I am pleased to have a staff of seasoned attorneys who are committed to the standard of excellence that myself and the mayor require. “

Savings:

Mr. Wenzel will handle all labor negotiations, arbitration cases, PERC matters, some OAL cases, and some Title 59 matters. He will receive an annual salary of \$47,000.

Over the past five years, the overall cost for legal services provided by Labor Counsel including matters not falling under the purview of their contract (all of which will be now handled in-house) totaled \$373,155.06.

The savings is based on *the* difference between the \$373,155.06 and the \$235,000 Mr. Wenzel would make in the same *period, which equals \$138,155.00, plus* approximately \$100,000.00 that would have been billed by outside counsel for matters Mr. Wenzel will now handle. These include some of the Title 59 cases and discrimination claims that are filed.

Given the above numbers they relate to the level of services in-house counsel will be providing, we project over all savings to be approximately

\$238,000.00, or an average annual savings of \$47,600.

Terms:

Labor Negotiations - Involve the negotiating of contracts for various Municipal Unions. In the City of Orange they include the 504, PBA, FMBA and **OMEBA (Orange Municipal Employees)**.

PERC Public Employment Relations Commissions addresses labor relations issues involving public employees and unions. Such issues can include the scope of negotiations and unfair labor practices. The commission consists of seven (7) members appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate.

OAL- OAL is the **Office of Administrative Law or Administrative Law Courts**. It is an independent arbiter of certain disputes arising from Public Agency Actions. They are a part of the *Executive Branch*. Their courts addresses issues such as termination of employment and suspensions from employment.

Title 59 - Is a statutory reference to legislation which governs public entities such as municipalities