



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS
PUBLIC INTEGRITY DIVISION

JACKIE LACEY o District Attorney
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October 20, 2015

Terrie L. White
Chief Deputy, Criminal Division
Santa Monica City Attorney's Office
1685 Main Street, Room 310
Santa Monica, California 90401

Re: Pam O'Connor

Dear Chief Deputy White:

We have reviewed the allegation that on May 23, 2014, and again on May 24, 2014, then Santa Monica City Mayor Pam O'Connor requested Santa Monica City Manager Rod Gould fire City Communications Director Elizabeth Riel. Santa Monica City Charter section 6.10 states in part that "Neither the City Council nor any of its members shall order or request directly or indirectly the appointment of any person to an office or employment or the removal of any person therefrom, by the City Manager...." We note that according to Santa Monica City Charter section 1701, "The violation of any provision of this Charter shall be deemed a misdemeanor and be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not exceeding Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or by imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months or by both such fine and imprisonment."

The hiring and firing of employees is a civil matter left to the sound discretion of the City of Santa Monica and, when necessary, the civil courts. The alleged "criminal misconduct" took place on May 23 and May 24, 2014. Regardless of whether or not this conduct is truly criminal, the statute of limitations has expired. Accordingly, we will take no further action.

Very truly yours,

JACKIE LACEY
District Attorney of Los Angeles County

By 

Sean Hassett
Deputy District Attorney

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