



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

**JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR**

February 14, 2022

City Council President Ian Abreu  
And Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street, Room 215  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Abreu and Honorable Members of the City Council:

Enclosed is a letter from City Solicitor, Eric Jaikes pertaining to his recommendation of Owen Murphy for the position of Assistant City Solicitor.

At this time, I am asking for your consideration to approve my appointment of Owen Murphy as Assistant City Solicitor and of Owen Murphy's salary at Step 3, Grade MPT-12 (\$38,967.00).

City Solicitor Jaikes will be available at the City Council meeting to answer any questions you may have.

I support Solicitor Jaikes' recommendation and appreciate your consideration this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor

JFM/bat

Attachments

Cc: Eric Jaikes  
Owen Murphy



*City of New Bedford*  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY SOLICITOR**

**ERIC JAIKES**  
*City Solicitor*

**ELIZABETH McNAMARA**  
*First Assistant City Solicitor*

**KREG R. ESPINOLA**  
**THOMAS DAVID HOUGHTON**  
*Assistant City Solicitors*

February 14, 2022

**JOHN E. FLOR**  
*Associate City Solicitors*

Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell  
City of New Bedford  
133 William Street, Room 311  
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Recommendation of Owen Murphy for Assistant City Solicitor position

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

As you know, the Solicitor's Office has an Assistant City Solicitor vacancy due to my resigning from my Assistant City Solicitor position and becoming the City Solicitor. Prior to Attorney McDermott's resignation she and I interviewed a number of applicants for attorney positions in the Solicitor's Office. I believe that Owen Murphy is the most qualified candidate to assume my former role as Assistant City Solicitor. Therefore, I am recommending that the City hire Owen Murphy for the Assistant City Solicitor's position at a pay grade of MPT-12, Step 3 and that you seek City Council confirmation of this appointment.

Owen Murphy is a Boston College law graduate. Owen has been practicing law for over ten years in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Although he has no specific prior municipal experience, Owen has government experience having served in the Rhode Island Attorney General's office since 2015. Before that Owen was an Assistant District Attorney in the Bristol County District Attorney's Office for three years.

Owen has both trial experience and significant appellate law experience. He has argued over sixty different appellate cases, evenly split between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. During my 21 years of service in the Solicitor's Office in New Bedford, I do not recall our office ever having an attorney with the significant appellate experience that Owen Murphy has as well as litigation experience. Based up his work history and skills I believe Owen will be able to begin work immediately on various city matters which I have handled previously as Assistant City Solicitor without requiring any significant additional training. This is a variable/part-time position and we are requesting that Owen be hired at the pay grade of MPT-12, Step 3 rather than start at Step 1. This recommendation is made based upon Owen's tenure as an attorney, as well as his trial and appellate experience. By comparison we have recently hired a full time

Mayor Jonathan F. Mitchell

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attorney, fresh out of law school at a pay grade of M-12, Step 1. At a Step 3 level, Owen's salary would still be lower than the other part-time attorneys currently serving in the Solicitor's Office.

I therefore recommend Owen Murphy for the Assistant City Solicitor position and respectfully request your approval of this recommendation and that you seek the City Council's approval of your appointment of Owen Murphy to the position of Assistant City Solicitor.

I am available to attend the City Council meeting on February 24, 2022, should Owen's candidacy be on the agenda for that date.

Sincerely,



Eric Jaikes  
City Solicitor

EJ/bar

Cc: Judith Perkins, Director of Personnel

Owen Murphy, 55 George Street, Dartmouth, MA 02748