

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: John C. Randolph, Town Attorney

RE: Weeks Ethics Complaint Against Town Attorney

DATE: March 29, 2018

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Attorneys request that Jones, Foster, Johnston & Stubbs, P.A. be reimbursed for its defense against the ethics complaint filed by Jason Weeks against John Randolph.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Jason Weeks, previously a Town employee, was terminated from Town employment after an investigative report concluded that Weeks “did engage in acts of insubordination, disloyalty, intimidation and retaliation against residents, the Council, and the Town Manager.” Subsequent to his termination, Mr. Weeks initiated legal actions against the Town. Included among the actions Mr. Weeks filed was an ethics complaint filed with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics against John Randolph. Scott Hawkins of the firm handled the defense of this matter, which included the necessity of responding to an investigation conducted by the Ethics Commission Staff, filing a written response with the Ethics Commission, and being required to attend a full Ethics Commission hearing in Tallahassee. The Ethics Commission ultimately rendered an opinion, a copy of which is attached. The Ethics Commission’s findings were in favor of Mr. Randolph in regard to all three counts of the complaint filed by Mr. Weeks, and ordered the complaint dismissed.

In regard to an Ethics Commission complaint, if the proceeding arose out of or in connection with the performance of the officer’s official duties and serves a public purpose, the official is entitled to be compensated for the official’s costs and attorney’s fees incurred in defending the complaint. It is clear that this case arose out of and in connection with the Town Attorney’s performance of his official duties and served a public purpose. This case was one of many attacks against the Town and Town officials filed by Mr. Weeks in apparent retribution for his termination from Town employment. On the basis of the above, we request that the Town Council authorize payment of the attached invoice relating to the defense of the ethics complaint.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attachments