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TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

DATE: March 26, 2003
FROM: Monroe D. Kiar
RE: Litigation Update

1. **Sunrise Water Acquisition Negotiations:** The Town requested competitive proposals for providing engineering services to conduct a western area utilities study. The Bid Selection Committee ranked URS as its first choice. At the Town Council Meeting of October 3, 2001, a resolution was approved selecting URS to provide engineering services for the western area utilities study and authorizing the Town Administrator to negotiate an agreement with URS for such services. The Town Attorney's Office has in the past, spoken with Mr. Cohen, who indicated that negotiations with URS have been ongoing. Mr. Cohen indicated that URS was requested to provide the Town with a Memorandum of Services setting forth their anticipated costs for each service to be rendered to enable the Town to determine the precise cost of the project and to determine if there are funds available to allow URS to conduct such services. A response has been received by the Town. The Town Attorney's Office this date, March 26, 2003, spoke with Heidi Cavicchia of the Town of Davie Utilities Department. Ms. Cavicchia indicated that no agreement has been reached with URS as yet for conducting the engineering services for the western area utility study, nor have they been given the go ahead for the project.
2. **Seventy-Five East, Inc. and Griffin-Orange North, Inc. v. Town of Davie:** A Final Order and Judgment Granting Petition for Common Law Certiorari was entered by Judge Patricia Cocalis in these two consolidated cases. Pursuant to the direction given to Mr. Burke by the Davie Town Council, an appeal of the Order entered by Judge Cocalis was filed with the 4th District Court of Appeal, but the 4th District Court of Appeal denied the Town's Petition for Writ of Certiorari on the Merits and Without Opinion, ordered that the matter be remanded back to the Town Council and required it to vote on the application based on the record as it existed prior to

the filing of the Writ of Certiorari and in accordance with the Final Judgment entered by Judge Cocalis. The Petitioner requested the matter again be placed on the Town Council Agenda and the matter was again heard on October 2, 2002, by the Town Council. After a presentation by Mr. Burke, the applicant and Staff evidence was presented by those in attendance who spoke in favor and in opposition to the two Petitions, the Town Council voted 4 to 1 to deny each petition. A Petition for Supplemental Relief to Enforce Mandate, or in the Alternative, Supplemental Complaint for Writ of Mandamus and for Writ of Certiorari has been filed by the Plaintiffs, Griffin-Orange North, Inc. and Seventy-Five East, Inc. with regard to the Quasi Judicial Hearing held before the Town of Davie on October 2, 2002. The Plaintiffs have filed these pleadings requesting that the Court order the Town of Davie to grant it the B-3 zoning and they are seeking a recovery of their attorneys' fees and court costs for their preparation and filing of this new Petition for Supplemental Relief to Enforce the Court's Mandate. Essentially, the pleadings request that the Circuit Court quash the Town Council's second denial of the Plaintiffs' zoning application and request that the Court compel approval of the B-3 zoning designation. The Plaintiffs have filed the pleadings with the same Court (Judge Cocalis) which previously entered a Final Judgment in favor of the Plaintiffs and have also filed an identical original action to cover all of their procedural basis. The Town Attorney's Office has reviewed the new pleadings filed by the Petitioner and has on several occasions, spoken with Mr. Burke, our special counsel, regarding their contents and litigation strategy. Mr. Burke previously indicated that the Petitioner filed a Motion to Consolidate the Petition for Supplemental Relief to Enforce Mandate as well as the second lawsuit it initiated, and requested that both lawsuits be heard before the original Judge in this case, Judge Cocalis, who is no longer in the Civil Trial Division, rather than Judge Robert Carney, who has taken over Judge Cocalis' prior case load. A hearing on the Petitioner's Motion to Consolidate the new Petition for Writ of Certiorari with its previously filed action was heard on December 17, 2002. Judge Carney granted the property owner's Motion to Consolidate, but denied the property owner's second Motion which was to transfer both actions back to Circuit Court Judge Patricia Cocalis. On January 30, 2003, there was an initial hearing and oral argument was presented by both sides before Judge Robert Carney relevant to the property owner's Motion to prohibit the Town of Davie Administrator from proceeding with administrative re-zoning of the property. At the January 30 hearing, Judge Carney stated he wanted to hear more argument on this matter and scheduled another hearing for February 14, 2003. On February 14, 2003, Mr. Burke attended the hearing on the property owner's Petition for Writ of Prohibition and Motion to Stay Further Proceedings concerning the Town Administrator's recent application to re-zone the subject property to suburban commercial (SC) and community business (B-2). Judge Carney the Writ of Prohibition and Motion to Stay and indicated in his view, the Court did not have jurisdiction to prevent the Town of Davie from carrying out its municipal function of re-zoning property. Accordingly, as confirmed by Mr. Burke, there are no impediments to the Town moving forward with Planning and Zoning review and

Town Council action on the Town Administrator's application to re-zone the two parcels to B-2 and SC. Today I spoke with Mr. Burke's assistant who indicated that as of this date, March 26, 2003, the Court had not yet addressed the property owner's second Petition for Writ of Certiorari, Petition for Mandamus and Request for Supplemental Relief, all of which seek the entry of a Court Order compelling the Town to re-zone the subject property to B-3 use.

3. **MVP Properties, Inc.:** The Plaintiff previously filed a multi-count lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida where a Final Summary Judgment in favor of the Town and against Plaintiff, MVP Properties, Inc. was granted by the Court. MVP Properties, Inc. appealed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals which later affirmed the decision of the lower court in favor of the Town of Davie and against the Plaintiff, MVP Properties, Inc. The Town is currently pursuing collection of the Judgment for costs that has been obtained from MVP Properties, Inc. In the meantime, MVP Properties, Inc. has instituted a new lawsuit in which it has filed a Complaint for Inverse Condemnation against the Town of Davie. The Florida League of Cities declined to represent the Town in this latest lawsuit as actions for inverse condemnation are excluded from coverage by the League. Accordingly, the Town Attorney's Office has reviewed the Complaint for Inverse Condemnation filed by MVP Properties, Inc. against the Town of Davie and has timely filed a Motion to Dismiss the Plaintiff's Complaint. Said Motion to Dismiss had been scheduled for hearing for Tuesday, October 29, 2002, at 2:00 P.M. The Plaintiff however, requested that the hearing be continued to a later date and oral argument on our Motion to Dismiss was heard on February 21, 2003 before Judge Robert A. Rosenberg. The Town Attorney has provided the Town Council with a copy of Judge Rosenberg's Order granting the Defendant, Town of Davie's Motion to Dismiss and allowing the Plaintiff to amend its Complaint. To date, March 26, 2003, the Town Attorney's Office has not yet received the Amended Complaint. Accordingly, the Town Attorney's Office has moved for the entry of a Final Order of Dismissal and this matter is to be heard on March 31, 2003. The Town Attorney's Office is confident in the outcome of this litigation.
4. **Town of Davie v. Malka:** The Town Attorney spoke this date, March 26, 2003, with the assistant to the Interim Building Official, who once again confirmed that the Building Department is keeping a close eye on this particular property owner to ensure that the property owner is moving ahead with final completion of all additions of the structure as promised. She indicated that the property owner is moving ahead as promised and there have been no recent complaints from the community.
5. **City of Pompano Beach, et al v. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:** As indicated in prior Litigation Reports, on May 24, 2002, Judge Fleet issued a 19 page Order on the Motion for Temporary Injunction in which he concluded that the Amendments regarding the Citrus Canker litigation enacted by

the Florida Legislature as codified in Florida Statutes Section 581.184, was an invalid invasion of the constitutional safeguard contained in both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Florida. The Judge ultimately entered a statewide Stay Order enjoining the Department of Agriculture from entering upon private property in the absence of a valid search warrant issued by an authorized judicial officer and executed by one authorized by law to do so. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services filed its Notice of Appeal seeking review by the 4th District Court of Appeal. The Department of Agriculture also filed a Motion with the 4th District Court of Appeal seeking that the appellate procedures be expedited, and a motion in which there was a suggestion for “bypass” certification to the Supreme Court of Florida. The Department of Agriculture contended that in light of the gravity and emergency nature of the issues, the matter should be certified by the 4th District Court of Appeal directly to the Supreme Court for its adjudication since the Department of Agriculture anticipated that regardless as to how the 4th District Court of Appeal rules on the matter, it would in fact be appealed by either the Department of Agriculture or by the County and coalition of cities to the Supreme Court of Florida for final adjudication. The 4th District Court of Appeal in fact for only the fourth time in its history, did certify this matter directly to the Florida Supreme Court for adjudication. The Florida Supreme Court however, refused to hear this matter at this stage and remanded it back to the 4th District Court of Appeal for further proceeding. Both the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the County and coalition of cities have filed their respective Appellate Briefs. The Florida Department of Agriculture filed a Reply Brief to the Brief filed by Broward County and the coalition of cities. The Town Attorney along with several other municipal attorneys, at the request of the Chief Appellate Attorney for Broward County, Andrew Meyers, attended the oral argument in these proceedings before a three judge panel at the 4th District Court of Appeal Courthouse in Palm Beach County, on December 4, 2002. On January 15, 2003, the 4th District Court of Appeal issued its opinion relevant to the appeal filed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services challenging the Order of Judge Fleet. The 4th District Court of Appeal found that Section 581.184 of the Florida Statutes (2002) requiring removal of Citrus trees within the 1900 feet of a tree infected with canker did not violate due process and therefore, was constitutional. The 4th District Court of Appeal also found Section 933.07(2) of the Florida Statutes allowing area wide search warrants unconstitutional and a violation of the 4th Amendment. The Court however, did rule that multiple properties to be searched may be included in a single search warrant and the issuance of such a warrant should be left to the discretion of the issuing magistrate. The 4th District Court of Appeal entered an Order quashing Judge Fleet’s Order and in response, the County and coalition of cities, including the Town of Davie, have filed a Notice to Invoke Discretionary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to review the decision of the 4th District Court of Appeal dated January 15, 2003, and rendered February 17, 2003. The Notice to Invoke Discretionary Jurisdiction also requests a review by the Supreme Court of

the 4th District Court of Appeal's December 10, 2002 Order Reimposing the Rule 9.210(b)(2) Automatic Stay of the Temporary Injunction. The County and coalition of cities have since filed their Jurisdictional Brief in support of their Notice to Invoke Discretionary Jurisdiction and Review by the Supreme Court of Florida. Mr. Meyers, the Chief Appellate Attorney for Broward County, has indicated that his office has requested that the Supreme Court issue a Stay Order pending final adjudication of this litigation. He further advised the Town Attorney on March 25, 2003, that although the Department has resumed cutting down trees within the 1900 foot radius in the Orlando area, to his knowledge, they have not yet resumed these activities in Broward County.

6. **Christina MacKenzie Maranon v. Town of Davie:** The Town of Davie filed a Motion for Summary Final Judgment on behalf of the Town of Davie and Police Officer Quentin Taylor seeking to dismiss both parties as defendants in this lawsuit. In response, the Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint naming the Town of Davie only as a defendant. Officer Taylor was no longer named a party to these proceedings. The Florida League of Cities attorney assigned to this case has filed a Motion to Dismiss the Amended Complaint and has advised the Town Attorney's Office that if it is not granted, he will again file a Motion for Summary Judgment. The Town Attorney's Office conferred with the legal assistant to our special legal counsel, Rick McDuff, on March 26, 2003, regarding the status of this case. The Town Attorney was advised that the status remains the same and the Court has still not yet ruled upon the Town's Motion to Dismiss the Amended Complaint. In the meantime, the Plaintiffs continue to do little to move their case forward and Mr. McDuff's office continues to remain confident that the case will be ultimately dismissed by the Court in its entirety.
7. **Spur Road Property:** As indicated by Mr. Willi to the Town Council at its meeting of January 2, 2003, Mr. Burke advised Mr. Willi that the 4th District Court of Appeal had affirmed the decision of the Florida Department of Transportation to accept the bid of Kevin Carmichael, Trustee, for the sale and purchase of the property which forms the subject matter of the State Road 84 Spur property litigation. At the last Town Council Meeting of February 5, 2003, Mr. Willi requested that the Town Council grant him authority to take whatever legal action was necessary to obtain the property in question. That authority was given to him by the Town Council.
8. **Peter Castagna v. Officers Brito and Williams:** Peter Castagna filed a lawsuit against Officers Daniel Brito and Paul Williams alleging an action for damages pursuant to Title 42 U.S.C. 1983, for alleged false imprisonment, battery and alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress. The outside legal counsel assigned by the Florida League of Cities to defend the police officers at the League's expense, filed a Motion to Dismiss the lawsuit instituted by Mr. Castagna. Prior to the Motion being heard, the attorneys for Mr. Castagna filed an Amended Complaint and our special outside legal counsel has filed a Motion to Dismiss the Amended

Complaint. The Town Attorney on this date, spoke with Mr. McDuff's legal assistant and was advised that the Motion to Dismiss was still pending and has never been ruled upon by the Court. In the meantime, the case is still scheduled for trial for May, 2003. The parties are continuing to conduct further discovery and will continue to do so until the cutoff date in March. Recently, the deposition of the Town's Police Practices expert was taken. This individual was previously employed by the City of Boca Raton, Florida and as a Interim Chief of Police and long time Assistant Chief of Police. This witness has been retained by the Town's special counsel to testify as to the appropriateness of the conduct of the police officers. It was the conclusion of Mr. McDuff that overall, this potential witness makes an excellent impression. On February 28, 2003, the Town filed its Motion for Summary Judgment and incorporated Memorandum of Law. The Plaintiff has responded in opposition to the Motion for Summary Judgment and Mr. McDuff's office is now preparing to file a reply to the Plaintiff's pleading. The hope of Mr. McDuff's office is that the Town's Motion for Summary Judgment will be heard shortly. As indicated in prior Litigation Reports, it is the continued belief of our Florida League of Cities attorney that it is questionable that the police conduct on June 25, 1999 resulted in the problems which the Plaintiff contends he now has as a result of the incident of June 25, 1999, and that the matter will show that there was no improper conduct by the two police officers in this matter.

9. **Pelican Coast Holdings, Inc. and William Cuthbertson v. Town of Davie:** A Petition for Certiorari was served upon the Town along with an Order to Show Cause signed by Judge Burnstein requiring the Town of Davie to show cause why the relief requested in the Petition for Certiorari should not be granted. On July 22, 2002, Appellee, Town of Davie, filed its response to the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and Pelican Coast Holdings, Inc. and William Cuthbertson have since filed their Reply Brief. Oral argument in this matter was held on October 3, 2002 and thereafter, both side submitted Memorandum of Law in support of their respective positions. On October 28, 2002, Judge Burnstein issued her Order in this case. The Court granted the Petition for Writ of Certiorari and quashed the condition imposed by the Town Council at its May 15, 2002 Meeting that the owner of the property obtained a "special permit" from the Council, if the owner seeks to serve alcoholic beverages at the site. The Court does however, make clear that the owners and users of the property are bound by the separation requirements for alcoholic establishments, but the Court proposes that the Town would be able to monitor the owner's compliance through its occupational licensing regulations. The Court has also ruled that the Petitioner is entitled to recover its attorney's fees in prosecuting the appeal. A copy of Judge Burnstein's Order of October 28, 2002 has been previously provided to the Mayor and Councilmembers. At the first meeting in November of the Davie Town Council, the Council authorized Mr. Burke's firm to file the necessary paperwork to challenge Judge Burnstein's Order of October 28, 2002. Pursuant to the Council's instructions, a Petition for Writ of Certiorari was filed on behalf of the Town of Davie with the 4th District Court of Appeal. The

Petition was reviewed by a 3 judge panel of the 4th District Court of Appeal and the Town Attorney has been advised by Mr. Burke that the Court has denied the Town's Petition for Writ of Certiorari, but also denied the request of the property owner for an award of attorney's fees on the appellate level. The Town Attorney's Office spoke with Mr. Burke's legal assistant on March 26, 2003, regarding this matter, and the only remaining issue is what amount, if any, is to be awarded to the Petitioner with regard to attorney's fees on the Circuit Court level. To date, no hearing on this issue has been scheduled. Accordingly, the Town Attorney's Office intends to close its file on this matter shortly, if nothing new transpires.

10. **DePaola v. Town of Davie:** Plaintiff DePaola filed a lawsuit against the Town of Davie and the Town filed a Motion to Dismiss. The Motion to Dismiss was heard by Judge Burnstein who requested that both sides file Memoranda of Law in support of their positions and she took the case under advisement. Both sides did file their Memoranda of Law in support of their positions on the Town's Motion to Dismiss, and on November 13, 2002, the Court entered an Order granting the Town's Motion to Dismiss and entered an Order of Dismissal. The Court found that Mr. DePaola had administrative remedies as a career service employee, either by pursuing a civil service appeal or by a grievance procedure established under a collective bargaining agreement, but he had failed to pursue his administrative remedies. A copy the Court's Order of November 13, 2002, has been previously provided to the Town Council for its review. The Plaintiff DePaola filed a motion with the Court for re-hearing of the Town's Motion to Dismiss, which motion was denied by the Trial Court. The attorneys for DePaola filed a Notice of Appeal of the Trial Court's decision to the 4th District Court of Appeal. The Town Attorney's Office was advised by Mr. Burke's Office that as of this date, March 26, 2003, the Plaintiff's initial Brief has not yet been received. The time for receipt of the initial Brief has not yet expired.

11. **Southern Homes of Davie, LLC v. Davie (Charleston Oaks Plat) Case No. 02-015674 (11):** The Town was served with a Summons and Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Injunction and Petition for Writ of Mandamus with regard to Case Number 02-015674 (11) instituted by Southern Homes of Davie, LLC against the Town of Davie relevant to the "Charleston Oaks Plat". The Florida League of Cities has accepted responsibility for providing a defense to the Town of Davie relevant to this lawsuit and has assigned the case to Attorney Michael Burke. The Plaintiff is seeking both equitable relief and monetary damages against the Town. The Plaintiff is alleging that they have suffered injury as a result of the Town's refusal to process, review and/or approve its Site Plan Application while the Zoning in Progress has been in effect. They are seeking an Order declaring that the Plaintiff is entitled to approval of its Site Plan Application and that the Town be estopped to apply the "Zoning in Progress"; declaring that the Zoning in Progress does not exist and/or does not apply to Plaintiff's Site Plan Application and/or Plaintiff's property, and other relief. Since then, the Plaintiff has filed a second companion case also seeking

a Declaratory Judgment and Injunction and Petition for Mandamus against the Town of Davie with regard to the "Flamingo Plat". This too, has been accepted for defense by the Florida League of Cities. Both cases have been since consolidated for discovery purposes and Mr. Burke's firm has filed its response to each Complaint filed in the two lawsuits. On this date, March 26, 2003, the Town Attorney again discussed this matter with the office of our special outside legal counsel, Mr. Burke. As indicated in earlier Litigation Reports, a written proposal from Attorney Spencer had been received and the proposed Stipulation was reviewed by the Town Attorney's Office, Mr. Burke and the Town Administration, and Mr. Spencer was advised that it was not in proper form. During a subsequent conversation with Mr. Burke, the Town Attorney was advised by Mr. Burke that he has requested that Southern Homes comply with its prior oral agreement made before the Town Council by its attorneys, and dismiss the lawsuit. A Status Conference that had been scheduled for March 19, 2003 before the Court was canceled as Plaintiff's attorney has indicated that he will get the documents dismissing this case to Mr. Burke's office. Should these not be received in a reasonable period of time, Mr. Burke may file a Motion to enforce the Stipulation, however, he hopes this will not be necessary.

12. **Asset Management Consultants of Virginia, Inc. v. Town of Davie:** The Town of Davie has been sued by Asset Management Consultants of Virginia, Inc., who are seeking a refund of a public service fee imposed on certain property owners by the Town pursuant to Ordinance No. 99-35 of the Town Code. The Town filed a Motion to Dismiss the Complaint along with a Memorandum of Law in support of the Town's position. The Town's position is that at the time of the passage of Ordinance No. 99-35 of the Davie Town Code, it was properly initiated and therefore, the Plaintiff is not entitled to a refund of the public services fees which were subsequently declared unconstitutional and contrary to Section 192.042 of the Florida Statutes by the Florida Supreme Court in 1999. The Town of Davie's Motion to dismiss the lawsuit was heard on Friday, November 15, 2002, and after Judge Greene heard lengthy oral argument on both sides, the Court granted the Town of Davie's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint. The Judge granted our Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice as to Count II, which was a claim by the Plaintiff against the Town of Davie for unjust enrichment with regard to the Town of Davie's collection of the public service fee which was subsequently ruled unconstitutional. The Judge also granted the Town's Motion to Dismiss Counts I and III in which the Plaintiff sought a declaratory judgment and a refund of the public services fee that was collected relevant to the Plaintiffs. The Judge also struck with prejudice that portion of Count III which sought prejudgment interest against the Town if the Plaintiff is successful. The Judge did give the Plaintiff 20 days in which to amend Count I and the balance of Count III. A copy of the Court's Order of November 15, 2002, was previously forwarded to the Town for distribution to the Mayor and Councilmembers. The Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint and Mr. Johnson's office filed an Answer to the remaining Count seeking a refund of the public

services fee that was collected from the Plaintiffs. The Town Attorney's Office spoke with Mr. Johnson's office this date, March 26, 2003, and was advised that his office continues to conduct discovery in this case, and that they anticipate filing a Motion for Summary Judgment within 60 to 90 days. The Plaintiff served upon the Town a set of Interrogatories to be answer by the Town and a Request for Production of various documents. These have been forwarded to the Town for response.

13. **Michael Biglen v. Town of Davie:** The Plaintiff has sued Florida Power & Light Company, the Town of Davie and several other defendants. The Plaintiff alleges that he made contact with an overhead power line owned by Florida Power & Light Company while he was on the premises of a private land owner. Nevertheless, he asserts claims for negligence against the Town claiming a duty owed by the Town to enforce compliance with one of its ordinances. The Town has filed a Motion to Dismiss the Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint for failure to state a cause of action for premises liability against the Town of Davie, that the Plaintiff's claims are barred by sovereign immunity, and seeking an award from the Plaintiff of attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Florida Statutes §57.105. It is the Town's position that the Plaintiff has asserted claims against the Town without a good faith basis in doing so and that no facts or legal theories support the Plaintiff's claims and therefore, based on the circumstances, the Town is entitled to an award of its attorney's fees and costs. On January 16, 2003, the Court heard a Motion to Dismiss filed on behalf of the Town of Davie to dismiss the Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint. On February 21, 2003, Judge Andrews issued his Order granting the Town of Davie's Motion to Dismiss Count V of the Second Amended Complaint (the only Count naming the Town as a defendant). The Court found that the Plaintiff's claims against the Town of Davie were barred by sovereign immunity. A copy of Judge Andrews' Order has been previously provided to the Town Council. A Motion for Entry of Final Judgment in favor of the Town of Davie and requesting an award of the Town's taxable costs against the Plaintiff has been filed with the Court and is to be heard tomorrow, March 27, 2003. The Plaintiff has filed a 2 page pleading in opposition to the entry of the Final Judgment. Once the Final Judgment is entered by the Court, the Plaintiff will then have 30 days in which to appeal, if he elects to do so.
14. **City of Cooper City v. Town of Davie:** The City of Cooper City has filed a lawsuit for Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief and Alternative Petitions for Writ of Quo Warranto and Certiorari alleging that a recent ordinance and a recent resolution relevant to annexation are invalid. The Town Attorney's Office prepared an appropriate Motion to Dismiss and filed same as the Town's insurance carrier has refused to provide a legal defense to this action. This matter was originally noticed to be heard for oral argument on February 19, 2003, but the Court thereafter advised the Town Attorney's Office that the earliest time it would entertain oral argument is in March. Oral argument on the Town's Motion to Dismiss was heard

this date, March 26, 2003. The attorney for Cooper City filed a Motion to Abate the Proceedings pending exhaustion of administrative remedies, including the requirements of Chapter 164 regarding intergovernmental dispute resolutions. The Judge indicated that this was the first time this matter had come before him in 19 years and accordingly, he advised both parties that he would take this matter under advisement and get back to the attorney shortly with his decision. As indicated in previous Litigation Reports, the Town Attorney's Office is confident in a successful outcome of this litigation.