Memorandum

To: Atty. Lawrence Garcia, Corporation Counsel Law Department
From: Council President Pro Tempore Mary Sheffield
CC: Honorable Colleagues, Mayor Mike Duggan, LPD, City Clerk
Date: 3/12/2019
Re: Questions for the Law Department Budget Hearing

1. In response to LPD’s question regarding increased contractual services costs, the Law Department indicated some of the funding is related wrongful conviction cases. Of the indicated eight wrongful conviction lawsuits, each seeking tens of millions of dollars, outside of litigation is the Law expending resources to identify and correct the mistakes made which lead to the conviction of innocent citizens and lawsuit filings?

2. Every week City Council is presented with several lawsuit settlements and requests for indemnification for City employees. How much of the Law Department’s budget is dedicated to litigating suits against the City and its employees? Are funds available to assess the nature of the lawsuits and to provide recommendations and training for City employees to reduce the City’s exposure and lawsuit filings?

3. There are a number of legal issues with State and Federal law which negatively impact the City’s ability to govern and protect City residents and assets. In the Law Department’s Activity Description, there is mention of a legislative liaison and federal lobbyist? Who holds these positions, who do they report to and what is the cost of these services?

4. There’s a small increase in salary and wages but a decrease in employee benefits. Does this represent a shift from FTE’s to contractual employees? If so, what is the effect on attrition for the Law Department.