



PLUNKETT  COONEY
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

Staying out of the Soup!

The municipal official's guide for not getting burned

Presented by
Robert A. Marzano
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Today's Presenters



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Staying out of the Soup!




Ethics

- Your roles a municipal officer
- You are required to comply with all local, state and federal laws.
- Local ethic ordinances
- Conflict of interest issues



Staying out of the Soup!



Contract Dos & Don'ts

- Do continue to communicate with the union.
- Don't assume tele-bargaining will be held to the same standard as in-person negotiations.
- Don't be lax in meetings, agendas and presentations.
- Do postpone negotiations on entire CBA's if possible.
- Don't surprise the union with repeated unilateral action(s).
- Do enforce work rules not affected by COVID-19.



Liability & Indemnity

- Your potential legal liability as a municipal officer
- When the municipality will indemnify you for your actions and when it will not
- Knowledge of potential lawsuits
- Think about issue of liability when making decisions



Labor & Employment Situations

- Expect that laws will continue to change.
- Telework and childcare issues
- Hiring practices



Freedom of Information Act

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Sunshine law (pro citizen)
- Written documents
- Emails (business and personal)
- Telephone calls



COVID-19 Response

- COVID-19 response team
- Focus on public safety personnel.
- Responsibility to community



Open Meetings Act

- Open Meetings Act (OMA)
- Another sunshine law
- Applies to all public bodies
- What is a "meeting?"
 - *Convening of a public body at which a quorum is present for the purpose of deliberating toward or rendering a decision on a public policy.

Continued



Open Meetings Act

- What is a "decision?"
- Where must the decision be made?
- Notice
- Meeting minutes
- Public right to speak
- Public right to record
- Closed session meetings



Press Relations

- Political issues
- Community expectations
- Union blaming



Questions?



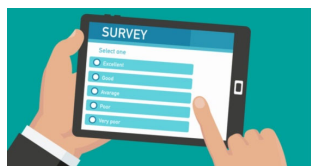
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Today's Presentation

Events

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PRACTICE AREAS

Direct Representation of
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08/26/2020 | 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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Date: Aug. 26, 2020
Time: 2 to 3 p.m.
Cost: Complimentary

Serving as a municipal official is tough enough without suffering self-inflicted wounds. That's why the members of Plunkett & Cooney's Governmental Law Practice Group are taking issue.



Have a Great Day!