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July 16, 2012

Board of Works and Safety
City of Beech Grove
806 Main Street
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RE: Purchase of new ambulance and I.C. § 5-22-10-4

Dear Board:

As you know, back in January 2012, an ambulance belonging to the Beech Grove Fire Department was involved in an accident resulting in a total loss of that ambulance. Since that time, through the leadership of Chief Robert Cheshire, the Fire Department should be receiving a new ambulance and placing it into service upon its delivery.

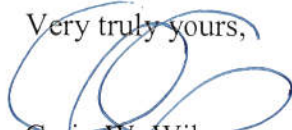
The Fire Department also has an ambulance it purchased in 2000. Due to its age and the fact that it has far outlived its expected life span, this ambulance needs to be replaced. For the Fire Department's EMS services to operate efficiently and effectively, the Fire Department needs to have at least two functional ambulances to service a community with the size and needs of Beech Grove. This is particularly true now, with the closure of St. Francis Hospital's Beech Grove campus. The Fire Department's two ambulances will be called upon to travel greater distances to deliver patients to other hospitals throughout Marion County. Currently, the only reliable ambulance the Fire Department has in its fleet is a leased ambulance being provided by the insurance company until the newly ordered ambulance arrives and is placed into service. It is my opinion that based on the age and condition of the 2000 ambulance, an immediate threat to public health, welfare, and safety of our citizens.

Indiana Code § 5-22-10-4 provides that the City may, under "emergency conditions," forego the usual and customary bidding process and may make a "special purchase" when there exists "a threat to public health, welfare, or safety." Based on the foregoing, I believe the requisite "emergency conditions" exist for the City to enter into a special purchase as contemplated by I.C. § 5-22-10-4. Accordingly, it is my recommendation that the Board declare

the requisite "emergency conditions" as provided in the statute, and grant the City permission to enter into a special purchase of a new ambulance. The funds to purchase a new ambulance should be available as a result of the Common Council's passage of the bond issue at the July 2, 2012 meeting.

Should you have any questions regarding this important matter, please feel free to contact me. Best regards.

Very truly yours,



Craig W. Wiley
City Attorney