

Law Department

John P. Gourley, Corporation Counsel

Geoff Spiess, Staff Attorney

Robert C. Beutter, Assistant City Attorney

David V. Bent, Assistant City Attorney

The Law Department provides legal assistance and counsel to 22 City departments, as well as the Board of Public Works and Safety, the Redevelopment and Community Development Commissions, the Board of Parks and Recreation, and Mishawaka Utilities and its divisions: Electric, Water and Wastewater Treatment.

In 2013, the Law Department led collective bargaining negotiations for a new contract for Mishawaka Utilities employees, provided legal assistance on resolutions and ordinances brought before the Mishawaka Common Council, and helped ensure the City was prepared to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

*In 2013, the Law
Department led collective
bargaining negotiations*

The Law Department represents the City in code enforcement hearings, provides legal support to the efforts of the Police and Fire Departments, reviews matters in all departments to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, counsels department heads on employment issues, and reviews contracts.

The department's ongoing efforts to protect taxpayer dollars includes answering complaints and claims, responding to lawsuits and EEOC filings, working to minimize the City's exposure to future lawsuits, and managing ongoing litigation.