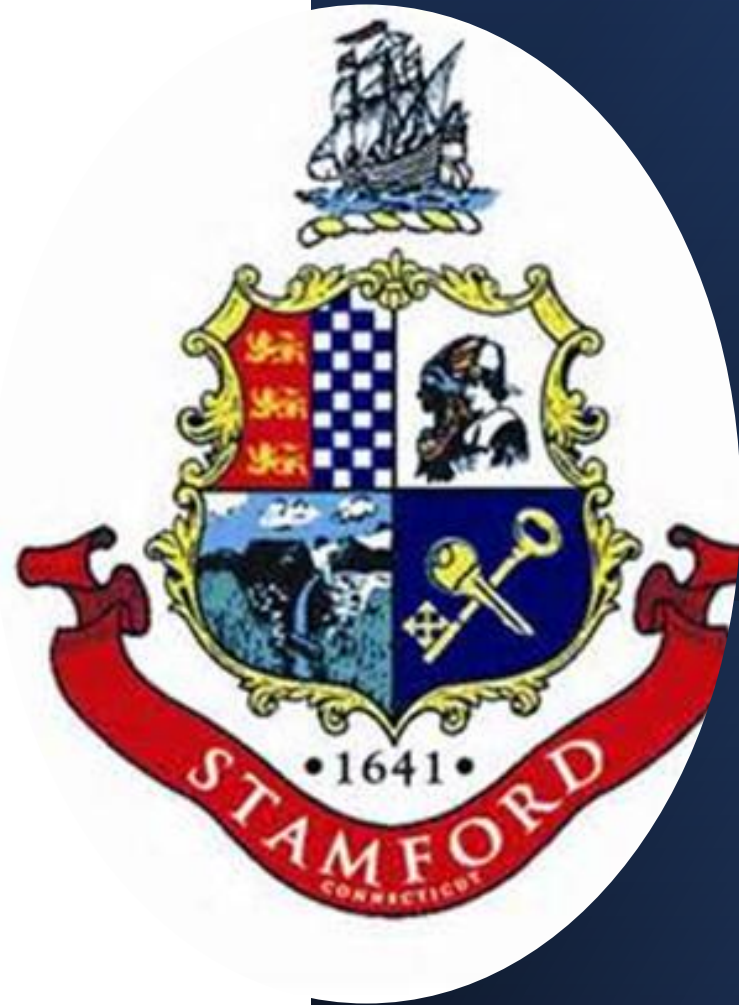


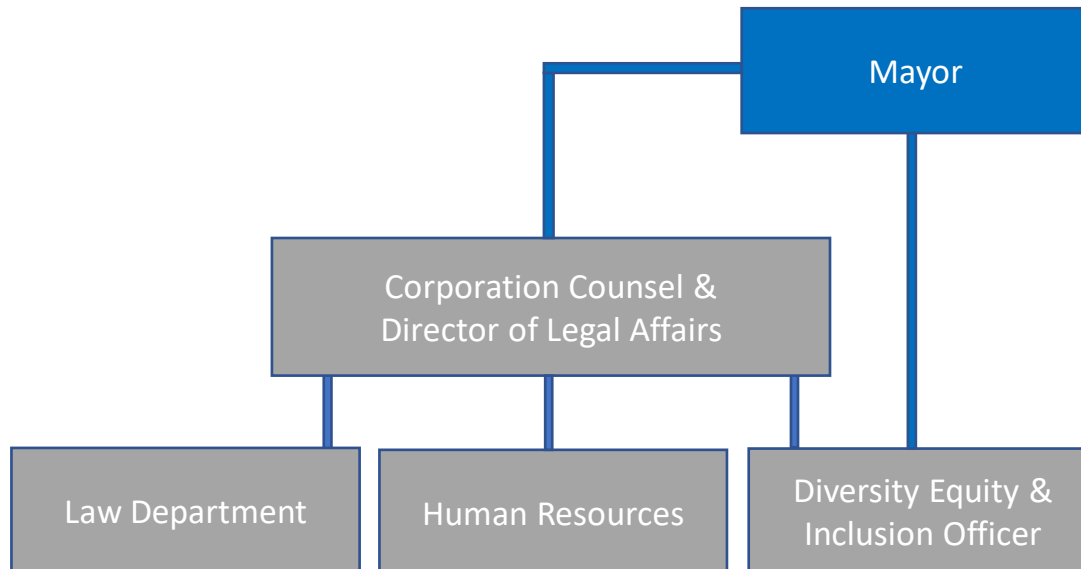
CITY OF STAMFORD OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

THOMAS M. CASSONE
tcassone@stamfordct.gov
203-977-4082

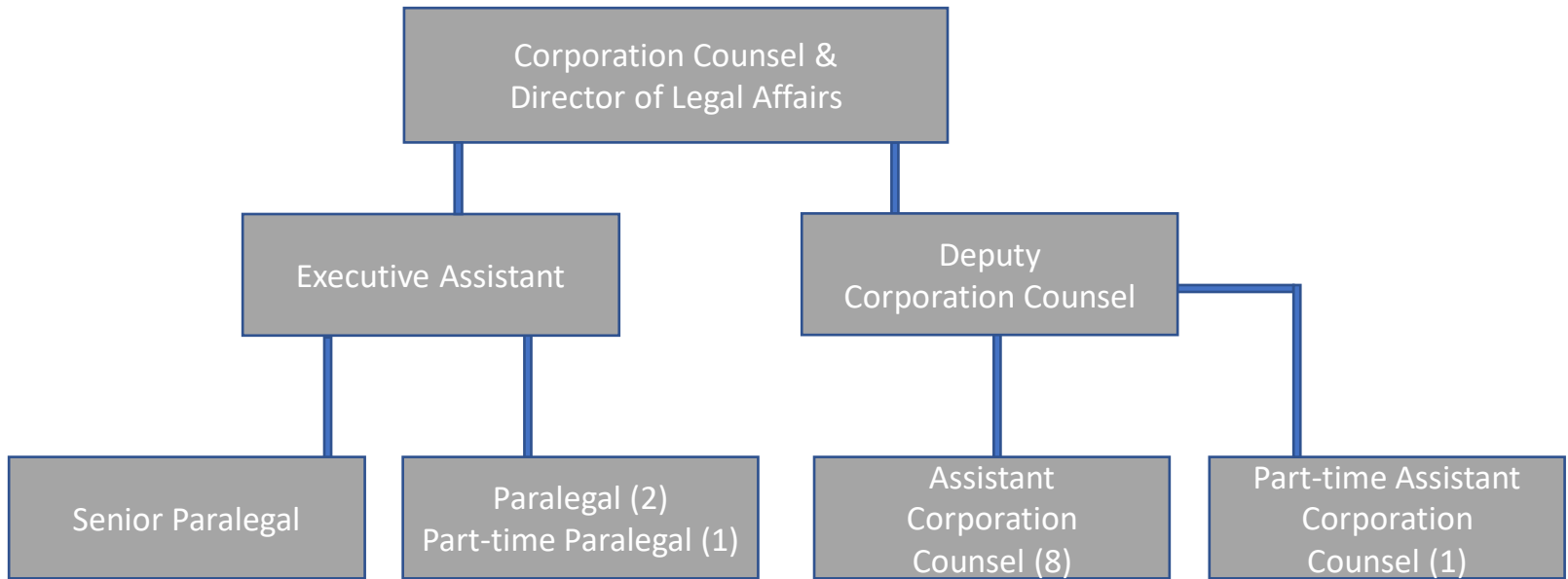
Board of Finance March 19, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Board of Representatives Fiscal Committee
April 9, 2024 6:30 p.m.



Office of Legal Affairs



Law Department





Department Introduction & Brief History

- *The Office of Legal Affairs provides legal services to all City officials, departments, boards, commissions and agencies. The Office of Legal Affairs also provides the professional human resources administration for the City of Stamford.*



Staffing Updates

- Request for permanent part-time Assistant ADA Coordinator



Explanation of budget increases in individual line accounts

- Salary increases are all due to new contracts
- Sick time increase is due to attorney's contract allowance for payout of sick time and addition of two new attorneys



Law Department Professional Consultant

Budget for FY 23/24 \$1,100,000

Department Request for FY 23/24 was \$1,100,000

FY 22/23 Actual spend \$1,041,206

\$660,000 or 54% of the budget has been spent

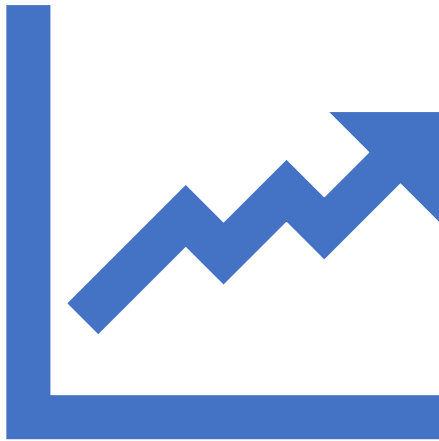
67% through the year (bills received for work through February)

Estimated need through year end is approximately \$1,100,000

School Mold litigation has cost \$171,000 to date or 16% of the budget



Statistics FY 22/23



- 217 pending litigation matters & 137 pending tax appeals as of March 1, 2024
- 194 property tax appeals relating to the October 1, 2022 revaluation
- 128 Claims filed (i.e., pothole, vehicular incidents, slip & fall)
- 21 formal public legal opinions, hundreds of informal legal opinions
- \$126k collected for damage to City property



Benchmark against other towns

	Stamford	New Haven	Hartford	Bridgeport	Waterbury
Population*	136,309	135,081	120,576	148,333	113,811
Land Area	37.6	18.7	17.3	16	28.5
Total Attorneys	10.5	12	9	11	10
Residents per Attorney	12,982	11,257	13,397	13,485	11,381
Total Staff	15	20	15	20	17
Budget for outside Professional Legal Services	\$1,100,000 (FY 23/24)	\$1,000,000 (FY 23/24)	\$1.5M (FY 23/24)	\$750,000 (FY 23/24)	\$750,000 (FY 23/24)

*www.census.gov