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September 11, 2017

Ms. Jodi Knaus
Town of White Clerk
16 W. 2nd Avenue North
P.O. Box 146
Aurora, MN 55705

Re: Petition to Separate Town of White from the City of Aurora.

Dear Jodi:

The Town of White has received a petition from more than 70 electors of the Town seeking the separation of the Town of White from the City of Aurora. The Town Board has asked me to provide information regarding the current status of the Town of White as well as any changes that would result from the separation of the Town from the City.

Minnesota Statute § 365.44 requires that the issue of separation be placed on the ballot on the same day as the next Annual Town Meeting (the March meeting) if at least 50 electors petition to place the issue on the ballot. The petition the Township received is sufficient to place this issue on the ballot on March 13, 2018.

Because this procedure has not been used for many decades, and because the statute addressing this issue is so short, many issues have arisen that need to be answered. This letter will attempt to answer these questions.

1. Aren't the Town and City already separate?

No, at least not completely separate. While the Town and City are separate legal entities with their own assets (property, bank accounts, etc.) and their own employees, for voting purposes, the City and Town remain at least partially combined. For reasons that are no longer known, years ago when a Township was formed around a village (what are now small cities, such as Aurora), the residents of the village were still considered residents of the Town, at least for voting purposes. While this was true throughout the state, most jurisdictions separated many years ago. For decades the statute that allowed Cities and

Towns to separate did not allow White Township to separate from Aurora. The law was changed in 1985 such that White Township could separate from Aurora if a proper petition was received and the electors approved the separation at a special election. That law remains in place today.

At this point the only way in which the City and Town are not separated has to do with voting. Aurora residents are currently considered residents of both the City of Aurora and the Town of White for voting purposes. That means that Aurora residents can vote in Town elections, run for Town Board Supervisor positions, and fully participate at the Town's Annual Meeting each March. However, White residents are not considered residents of Aurora and cannot vote in Aurora's elections or run for Aurora City offices. In all other respects the City and Town are separate.

2. If the voters approve separation, what will change?

If a majority of the Town's electorate voting on this issue approves separation of the City and Town, Aurora residents will no longer be able to vote in Town elections, run for Town Board Supervisor positions, or participate at the Town's Annual Meeting each March. All other relations between the City and Town will remain unchanged. If the voters choose not to separate, then Aurora residents will continue to be able to vote in Town elections, run for Town Board Supervisor positions, and fully participate at the Town's Annual Meeting each March.

3. Will this issue be voted on at the annual meeting by the electors attending the meeting or will it be voted on at a special election conducted at the Township's polling places?

Minn. Stat. § 365.44 requires that this issue be voted on by ballot. This will essentially be a special election held on the same day as the annual meeting, March 13, 2018. The Town will conduct this election at its regular polling places. Election hours will be determined by the Town Board and a notice of the election will be published in the Town's official newspaper as required by law.

4. Who can vote on this issue?

Minn. Stat. § 365.44 states that only those Town residents residing outside of the City of Aurora can vote on this issue. City residents will not be able to vote on this issue.

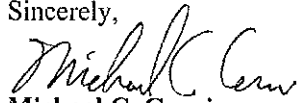
5. Will there be any financial consequences for the Town if separation is approved or denied?

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No. Currently the Town and City are separate entities for financial purposes, with separate tax levies, separate assets, separate employees and separate debt obligations. The outcome of this issue will not affect the finances of either entity.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this issue. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Couri". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "C".

Michael C. Couri
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.



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May 8, 2017

Sam Wilkes
3546 Highway 99
Aurora, MN 55705

Dear Sam:

This letter is to notify you the Town of White Board of Supervisors officially accepted receipt of the petition you hand delivered to the Town of White Office on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting held on Thursday, May 4, 2017. The petition states "Minnesota Ballot Notice, Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 365.44, we, the undersigned eligible voters request the following issue voted by ballot at the next annual Town of White meeting: Shall the Town of White be separated from the City of Aurora for all purposes? Yes No

The petition has 70 signatures. This is official notice the question will be placed on a ballot for a special election to be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi L. Knaus".

Jodi L. Knaus
Town Manager & Clerk
Election Administrator

Submitted on behalf of the Town of White Board of Supervisors