

To: FILE

From: Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director

Date: January 24, 2023

Re: Meeting with Attorney General Wrigley on January 24, 2023

I met with Drew Wrigley at this office on January 24, 2023, to discuss the AG's lease of the Burlington Building. I began the conversation by explaining that our conversation is confidential. I further explained that the Ethics Commission has not commenced an investigation, but I am initially reviewing a complaint. I did not reveal against whom the complaint has been made or individuals who made a complaint. Wrigley was aware Joel Heitkamp had filed a complaint based upon information in the press. I did not confirm or deny that information.

1. Has there been an amendment to the Burlington Building Lease on April 24, 2020?

Wrigley stated he did not believe an amendment to the lease had been reached by the parties because of an ongoing reconciliation of financial records. He directed me to speak with Becky Keller or Claire Ness to get specific information.

2. How much has the AG's Office/State been paying to Stealth Properties since April 24, 2020?

Wrigley indicated he believes there was a time the AG was paying an amount that was "estimated" to be the amount payable under the amendment. However, he is not sure for how long that happened. But, currently the AG is paying Stealth only the contracted for price for rent of the building. Wrigley again directed me to speak with Becky Keller regarding the rent payments. Moreover, Wrigley discussed a payment the AG's office received from Dockter ~\$200,000. Wrigley was not sure of what happened to those funds.

3. What amount for the lease has been submitted as part of your operating expenses in your appropriation bill (SB 2003)?

It was Wrigley's belief only the contracted price of the rent for the Burlington building was included in SB 2003 appropriation request as presented to the legislature. He again directed me to check with Becky Keller for specifics.

NOTES:

Mr. Wrigley was very candid and provided what information he could. He shared how he learned about the overages and how those were paid. He focused particularly on the fact that Dockter was paid est. 1.4 million dollars out of the AG's operating budget line item with only 4 days left of the biennium. He believe this payment was based upon an estimate alone and was done to prevent turn-back to the state.