



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Office of the City Attorney

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August 31, 2009

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Jill Clark, Esq.
2005 Aquila Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Re: *Paul Stepnes vs. Peter Ritschel & City of Minneapolis*
Court File No.: 08-CV-5296 ADM/JJK

Dear Ms. Clark:

In response to your recent inquiries, I did additional investigation about the action that triggered the MPD's forensic examination of the copies of Mr. Stepnes' hard drives.

I previously stated that Judge Porter reviewed the copies of the hard drives of Mr. Stepnes' computers for privileged materials, with the help of the Hennepin County Sherriff's Office, and that someone in the Sherriff's office told Sgt. Ritschel that he had the go-ahead to do the forensic search of the computers for evidence pursuant to the search warrant.

I now understand that this information was not entirely accurate. Instead, Sgt. Ritschel's recollection is that the Judge would be ordering that the examination could not occur only if he discovered some privileged material on the computer hard drive copies. Sgt. Ritschel understood that Hennepin County had assisted Judge Porter in reviewing the hard drives, and when he hadn't heard from the Judge about the review in six months, he asked that the search be performed pursuant to the search warrant.

I apologize for the inaccurate representations made previously.



Exhibit 19

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Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara J. Lathrop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" being the most prominent part.

SARA J. LATHROP
Assistant City Attorney

cc: Michael Sullivan, Esq.
John Borger, Esq.