

## **Law Department**

*Geoff Spiess, Corporation Counsel*

*John Roggeman, City Attorney*

*David V. Bent, Assistant City Attorney*

*Robert C. Beutter, 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 2018, the Law Department worked with the Common Council on wage negotiations for Mishawaka Police and Fire Departments and led negotiations for all other collectively-bargained work groups. Highlights from 2018 included guiding the process of establishing a new Riverfront Development Project Area for liquor licenses and resolving a dispute with the ownership of a commercial entity in Mishawaka which was withholding several hundred thousand dollars in fees owed to Mishawaka Utilities. City attorneys continue to provide legal assistance on resolutions and ordinances brought before the Mishawaka Common Council.

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.