

N. Mariana

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July 21, 1977

The Honorable Herman R. Guerrero
Speaker, Northern Mariana Islands
Legislature
P.O. Box 929
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Herman:

Over two months ago I discussed with you by telephone the need to formally retain Howard Willens to assist us in Washington in the review process of the Constitution for the Northern Marianas. As I indicated to you, Mr. Willens has assisted our office in all the activities relative to the legal review being made by the various departments and agencies as called for by the Office of Management and Budget. You concurred in the decision to have such services performed by Mr. Willens. Subsequent to our discussion, Senator H.Q. made a trip to Washington on the matter of war claims and conveyed to me your decision regarding Howard Willens and his service to the Marianas. Howard Willens, on June 2, wrote to you (copy of that letter attached) suggesting the terms for his professional services. In addition, he provided you with a detailed statement of service rendered from December 15, 1976 to May 31, 1977.

I learned today from Howard Willens that his letter has not yet been answered by your office. I am taking the opportunity, therefore, to once again seek your favorable consent in this matter. Mr. Willens has been performing legal services for over six months without compensation and he is getting pressure from his partners regarding the activities performed for the Marianas without any assurance of compensation. Howard, as you know, has always been very helpful, and has the best interests to assure that the Constitution be approved and that the Northern Marianas will achieve its goal of self-government. The services provided by Howard have always been excellent and I can assure you that without his help the Northern Marianas would be handicapped, especially in the area of legal review. I am confident that your office will take early action on this matter.

I am pleased to inform you that the OMB is now making its final recommendation to the President. There appears to be no reservations regarding the issues by any of the departments and agencies reviewing the Constitution. All of the departments and

and agencies that have commented have expressed their approval. It is now anticipated that the Constitution will be approved sometime in the latter part of August.

In anticipation of the approval of the Constitution, and in view of the historic nature of that approval, I believe the Legislature has authorized appropriations for representation in Washington. I believe it would be very much in order to send delegates from the Legislature and the Constitutional Convention to represent our people in the signing of the approval of the Constitution by President Carter. I believe it would be most appropriate to have representatives from all of the municipalities, the Legislature and the Constitutional Convention. Perhaps it would be useful to check with the leaders of the municipalities, the Legislature and the Convention as to the most appropriate representatives to participate in the signing of the Constitution. I am leaving this matter to a decision for you and the other leaders of the Northern Marianas.

I will be advising you and the Legislature during the course of the session the exact date for the approval of the Constitution and the most appropriate time for our delegates to be in Washington.

Kindly extend my best wishes to your colleagues in the Legislature and to Lucy and the kids. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Edward DLG. Pangelinan

Enclosure

c: Howard Willens
Director, OTSP