



# BERRIEN COUNTY

## OFFICE OF CORPORATE COUNSEL

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James T. McGovern

February 13, 2020

Press Release - From the Office of Berrien County Corporate Counsel

Re: Resignation of Corporate Counsel – James T. McGovern

For the last five years I have been employed as the Berrien County Corporate Counsel. Working for Berrien County, and its officials and employees, has been a great experience – both professionally and personally – and it provided me with a sense of pride that can only be acquired while working in the service of the public.

During my employment as the County’s attorney I consistently provided legal advice that served to protect both the Berrien County Government and the public trust. As an attorney I have the duty to advocate for my client’s interests while upholding the duty to honor my profession’s code of ethics; additionally, and most important, I have a duty protect and uphold the public trust. When circumstances arise that create conflicts between any or all of those duties, it is not an option to sacrifice one for the benefit of another.

Therefore, I am resigning from the position of Berrien County Corporate Counsel effective March 15, 2020.

Over the last half-decade I have seen firsthand why the Berrien County Government is considered a leading example of innovative and effective governance. It is an organization that, at its core, is led by dedicated and knowledgeable employees who selflessly provide their services for the benefit of the citizens of this County.

I want to thank the Board, the employees of Berrien County, and the citizens of this county for allowing me to be part of the Berrien County Government and to serve you over the last five years.

James T. McGovern