



Atlantic County

Executive Office

DL-49-26

Dennis Levinson
County Executive

March 27, 2026

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Attorney General Jennifer Davenport
Office of the Attorney General
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
8th floor, West Wing
25 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0080

RE: Atlantic County Prosecutor William Reynolds

Dear AG Davenport:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the state's chief law enforcement officer.

I'd like to make sure you are aware of the current circumstances surrounding Atlantic County Prosecutor William Reynolds. Since January 2026, he filed one legal action and multiple precludes to contemplated legal actions involving Atlantic County, Atlantic City and their respective employees. These include a complaint against Atlantic County and me as county executive, as well as a tort claim notice against me, County Administrator Gerald Del Rosso, and County Counsel Lynne Hughes and Assistant County Counsel Arthur Murray. He also filed a tort claim against Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, five city council members, the Atlantic City Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools La'Quetta Small and High School Principal Constance Days-Chapman.

As a result of his complaint, the Prosecutor's Office and Atlantic County government have each had to hire outside counsel to separately represent each party in mediation after Prosecutor Reynolds questioned the integrity and competence of my legal staff to provide him unbiased counsel.

Atlantic County has also had to hire outside counsel for three interest arbitrations with unions representing employees of the Prosecutor's Office. Traditionally, county counsel represents the prosecutor in all litigation matters. Having to hire outside counsel to perform these services has added unnecessary and unanticipated expenses.

At the same time, the Prosecutor issued a press release stating his office was overworked and underfunded, despite the county providing an increase of more than \$800,000 for salaries of employees in his office.

His \$18 million budget is similar to that of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office which has a population of more than 665,000 versus 275,000 in Atlantic County. Counties have no authorization for the hiring decisions of their prosecutor's offices, yet the counties are required to fund them. Atlantic County is the second poorest county in the state. Our salaries should not be compared to those in Hudson or Essex counties.



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My concern is the expense to our taxpayers of the use of outside counsel for as long as these issues remain unresolved. We entered mediation for his original complaint on February 9. Subsequent mediation sessions occurred on February 25 and March 6. It is now March 27 and we have not heard whether mediation will continue or litigation will begin.

Atlantic County and its taxpayers may also be on the hook should Mayor Small, his wife and Ms. Days-Chapman proceed with lawsuits and prevail against the Prosecutor and Atlantic County for selective prosecution in the child abuse charges of which Mayor Small was unanimously acquitted and the cases against Mrs. Small and Ms. Days-Chapman were eventually dropped.

Atlantic County has an unfortunate history of having paid millions of dollars to settle lawsuits as a result of questionable decisions made by former prosecutors. Our taxpayers cannot afford the expense of additional ill-advised and prolonged litigation. Even when we win, there is a cost to pay and that burden falls on the taxpayers.

I would appreciate your review of these issues and am available for further discussion as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Levinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

Dennis Levinson
Atlantic County Executive

c: Atlantic County Board of Commissioners