



**State of Vermont**  
**Agency of Administration**  
**Department of Finance & Management**  
Pavilion Office Building  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0201  
[www.finance.vermont.gov](http://www.finance.vermont.gov)

[phone] 802-828-2376  
[fax] 802-828-2428

*Adam Greshin, Commissioner*

February 21, 2019

Honorable Kitty Toll, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairperson Toll,

I would like to take this opportunity to address two points made by Attorney General T.J. Donovan during his fiscal year 2020 budget testimony delivered on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. My understanding is that Attorney General Donovan's testimony included the following two points: that the Governor proposed keeping six positions vacant in order to save an additional \$503,231 in General Funds; and that an increase of \$220,212 in General Funds for Contracted and Third-Party Services was a placeholder for a Financial Director position and a Criminal Investigator position.

The Attorney General originally requested an increase in General Funds totaling \$431,239. The request included a new Financial Administrator I position and a new Criminal Investigator position totaling \$167,563, a decrease in Contracted and Third-Party Services in the amount of \$21,691, and an increase in Vacancy Savings of \$50,000. After considering the Attorney General's request within a General Fund environment constrained by substantial fixed-cost obligations, the Administration provided \$226,631 in General Funds, equating to an increase of 4.4%, year-over-year. The two requested positions were not funded by the Administration.

Upon reviewing the budget as presented to your Committee, the Attorney General evidently increased Contracted and Third-Party Services and IT & Telecom Equipment, while boosting Vacancy Savings to offset these shifts in budgeted costs. The budget modifications made by the Attorney General's office to fund two positions by increasing Vacancy Savings to a much higher level was not a part of the Governor's intended budget recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Greshin".

Adam Greshin  
Commissioner

