Access Request Form: User: cjmitten Domain: URBANA PC: ex-admin.city.urbana.il.us Date: 10/19/2020 3:09:47 PM TYPE: GuestOnly: on

!!! Domain Guest Only !!!

LastName: McNeil FirstName: Ross Middle: E Department: Executive Job: Contractor Phone: Ext: n/a VMail: EMAIL: Yes GDrive: on HDrive: on Folders: FOIA szMenus: Other: Copier: Copier Access Codes and Address Book SUBMIT: Submit

Ross,

This may be worth your time.

Curt

http://municipalminute.ancelglink.com/2020/10/illinois-attorney-general-to-host-foia.html

From:	Mitten, Carol
To:	McNeil, Ross
Subject:	FW: FOIA Training for Ross McNeil
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:59:15 AM

From: Borman Curt <csborman@urbanaillinois.us>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Mitten, Carol <cjmitten@urbanaillinois.us>
Subject: RE: FOIA Training for Ross McNeil

Carol,

Yes. I suggest that Ross take the Illinois Attorney General Office's online FOIA training, which is available at the below link. The training offers a broad overview of FOIA, including the exemptions. I think he will have an easier time processing requests if he first completes the training.

Curt

http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/electronic\_foia\_training.aspx

From: <u>Mitten, Carol</u> Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:00 PM To: <u>Borman Curt</u> Subject: FOIA Training for Ross McNeil

Curt:

Have you thought about how you want to handle training Ross to do FOIA redactions? I think he is available tomorrow or Wednesday to get started if either of those days works for you.

Thanks!

Carol

Carol J. Mitten City Administrator

Executive Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2454



From:	Hannan, Elizabeth
To:	Fletcher, Femi
Subject:	FW: Offer Letter
Date:	Wednesday, December 09, 2020 4:41:27 PM
Attachments:	McNeil Offer Letter signed by EH.pdf
	image003.jpg
	image002.jpg

# Elizabeth Hannan

HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455



From: Hannan, Elizabeth

Sent: Friday, December 04, 2020 9:17 AM

To: 'Ross McNeil'

Subject: Offer Letter

Hi, Ross – The offer letter is attached. Please let me know if there's anything you'd like to discuss. Elizabeth

Elizabeth Hannan HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455





December 4, 2020

Ross McNeil

Urbana, IL 61801

VIA EMAIL:

Dear Ross:

I am pleased to offer you the position of Paralegal at the City of Urbana for the period starting Monday, December 14, 2020 for an indefinite term of not more than one year. You will report to James Simon, City Attorney. This position will typically consist of 30 to 35 hours per week. Additional details:

- Your hourly wage will be \$30 per hour and will be paid bi-weekly.
- You are expected to work 30 to 35 hours weekly.
- Benefits will be available, as follows -
  - You are eligible to participate in the City's health insurance plan as a 75% part-time employee and will have access to employee-paid vision and dental insurance.
  - You will be enrolled in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. In addition to the City's contribution, you will contribute 4.5% of your salary.
  - You will be eligible for paid holidays, according to the City's holiday schedule.
  - o You will accrue 5 hours of vacation leave monthly.
  - o You will accrue 4.33 hours of sick leave monthly.
- As a Paralegal, your position is classified as non-bargaining, temporary, and part-time. This position is non-exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which means you are eligible for overtime pursuant to legal requirements and City policy.

On your first day, you will attend an orientation meeting with a member of Human Resources, which will include completing employment forms. For your convenience, some forms may be downloaded from our website at: <a href="http://www.urbanaillinois.us/hr/benefits/forms">www.urbanaillinois.us/hr/benefits/forms</a> (under the "New Employees Forms" section). Please also be prepared to provide documentation that establishes your employment eligibility to work in the U.S. (in accordance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986). A list of acceptable documents for the I-9 form is enclosed.



Ross, we welcome you as a City of Urbana team member and greatly look forward to the positive contributions you will provide. If you agree to our offer for this position, please indicate your acceptance by signing this letter below and returning it to any member of Human Resources staff; you may wish to retain a copy for your own records. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this offer, please contact me at (217) 384-2310.

Sincerely,



Human Resources & Finance Director / CFO

I accept this position as described above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ross McNeil, Paralegal Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

# I. Litigation Support

Preparation of written documents, including:

Complaints, answers, briefs (including trial, appellate, amicus, etc), evidence and exhibits for trials and hearings, petitions for leave to appeal, orders, motions (including motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, motions for summary determination, motions to consolidate, etc), responses, objections, petitions, hearing notices, lis pendens notices, post-trial motions and responses, rule 137 and rule 11 sanction motions, requests for admissions, motions to admit, discovery requests, discovery responses, interrogatory requests and responses, affidavits, subpoenas, protective orders, docketing statements, research summaries, case summaries, letters, emails, etc.

Prepared documents for proceedings before:

Illinois Circuit Court Illinois Appellate Court Illinois Supreme Court Federal Bankruptcy Court (both primary proceedings and adversary proceedings) Federal District Court Illinois Department of Revenue hearings and proceedings Administrative Review Proceedings in the Circuit Court Illinois Department of Human Rights and Human Rights Commission proceedings Champaign County Board of Review proceedings

Experience working with and for Attorneys

Participation in legal discussions, legal strategies, case strategies, etc.

Attend and assist at meetings with clients

Attend and assist at meetings with witnesses

Attend and assist at meetings, hearings, trials

Assist in hearing, trial and oral argument preparation

Attend and assist at oral arguments in Circuit Court

Attend and assist at oral arguments at Appellate Court

Attend and assist at oral arguments at Illinois Supreme Court

Court and Court Room Experience

Experience with Circuit Court proceedings

Interaction with Circuit Court Clerk and deputies

Experience with Appellate Court proceedings

normal appeals as of right (301/303) and appeals under rule 304a

Interaction with Appellate Court Clerk

Experience with Illinois Supreme Court proceedings

Interaction with Illinois Supreme Court Clerk

Participate in witness preparation for depositions and trials

Work with clients and attorney to prepare discovery and interrogatory responses

Prepare for and attend depositions, hearings, trials

Review of case documents and related matters Review and preparation of discovery materials Review of evidence and preparation of trial evidence Review of FOIA requests and responses

Filing, eFiling and electronic retrieval of filed documents

Filed documents in-person at the Circuit Court and Appellate Court under the old paper-based systems

Extensive use of electronic filing and case retrieval systems

Odyssey Efile and re:SearchIL for state cases

ECF and Pacer for federal cases

Electronically filed complaints, motions, objections, briefs, petitions for leave, etc with

Illinois Circuit Court

Illinois Appellate Court

Illinois Supreme Court

Federal Bankruptcy Court

Federal District Court

Sanctions Proceedings

Extensive experience with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 137, Federal Rule 11 and Bankruptcy Rule 9011

Organization

Created electronic records from paper records before electronic filing and service was common for all cases I have been involved in

Organized case records electronically for quick retrieval for all cases, starting long before electronic filing and service were common

Organize research, documents and evidence

Research

Perform both simple and complex legal research on Westlaw and LexisNexis. (more experience with LexisNexis) Understanding of different types of searches native language, keyword, and complex search parameter construction Title and land records research old-style book and page research modern electronic searching Internet based research Law School Library **Public Library Records** Property Tax records Champaign County online property tax records Research in cooperation with Township Assessor, Supervisor of Assessments and Board of Review Illinois Compiled Statutes Illinois Supreme Court Rules FOIA **IICLE** resources Champaign Circuit Court online access to public files Champaign County GIS

Interactions with supervising attorney beyond working cooperatively on the items above

Act as a sounding board when attorney needs to bounce ideas

Act as devil's advocate in helping attorney to find holes in strategies and theories

Help develop case strategies, both short term and long term

Make sure short term tactics don't interfere with long term strategies

Always looking for and discussing news, ideas, changes to law or other input that could benefit a client and/or a case

# II. Communication Skills

# Interpersonal

Communicate with attorneys using appropriate legal terminology Communicate with clients using lay terms to explain legal concepts when necessary Communicate with multiple attorneys on multi-party cases Communicate with witnesses. Ability to evaluate credibility and value of evidence Communicate with court clerks. Prevent issues from occurring and resolve issues when necessary

# Technological

Experience with Microsoft Office and Adobe Products Experience with Linux and open-source alternatives Experience with online resources for legal research, online filing and retrieval, etc. Experience with remote meeting software

# Writing

Correspondence with attorneys, parties, witnesses, resources, etc. via paper and electronic mail Drafting and editing of

Pleadings Briefs Motions Correspondence Discovery requests, responses, objections, etc.

# III. Professional Conduct

# Thoughtfulness

Ability to think logically Ability to think strategically Detail oriented Always act with highest standard of ethics, legally and morally. Ability to bring perspective and original thinking.

# Timeliness

Meet filing and work deadlines Present at in-person and electronic meetings on time and prepared Manage and prioritize multiple overlapping case schedules Independence Ability to work independently and efficiently

Persistence and Patience

Ability to participate and contribute in meetings without overstepping Ability to communicate alternative ideas

Respectfulness and Discretion

Ability to adapt to and implement the ideas of others Ability to recognize the time and place for alternative ideas Ability to apply discretion, orally and in communications

From:	Mitten, Carol
To:	McNeil, Ross
Subject:	FW: FOIA Training for Ross McNeil
Date:	Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:59:15 AM

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Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:52 PM
To: Mitten, Carol <cjmitten@urbanaillinois.us>
Subject: RE: FOIA Training for Ross McNeil

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Curt

http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/electronic\_foia\_training.aspx

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Curt:

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Thanks!

Carol

Carol J. Mitten City Administrator

Executive Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2454



From:	Hannan, Elizabeth
To:	Borman, Elizabeth
Subject:	Offers
Date:	Wednesday, November 25, 2020 3:15:02 PM
Attachments:	image002.jpg

I got the offers out to Shaennon Clark and Abigayle Duitsman. I have an offer pretty much ready to go for Ross McNeil, but he's thinking about what he wants the start date to be.

Could you take a quick look at that in the recruiting folder?

I suggested a 6 month term, initially, because otherwise it's hard to think about how to handle vacation – the accrual is generally associated with a time period.

# Elizabeth Hannan HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455





CITY OF URBANA Human Resources

# PARALEGAL

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

Division:	Legal
Department:	Executive
Reports To:	City Attorney
Job Type:	Part-Time, Temporary Non-Union
FLSA Status:	Non-Exempt

# JOB SUMMARY

Under general direction and supervision of the City Attorney, the Paralegal performs complex and highly responsible paralegal work, which includes administering the process for responding to requests for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); undertakes legal research on a variety of routine and complex legal issues; prepares legal memoranda for or at the request of the City Attorney; prepares legal filings in civil court cases; prepares and handles filings with other units of government; and performs other related duties as assigned.

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Serve as the City's appointed FOIA Officer.
- Supervise and coordinate the City's processes for responding to FOIA requests including assisting and guiding designated City staff in their handling and processing FOIA requests.
  - Prepare responses to FOIA requesters and the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor's requests for information and further action by the City.
- Maintain the City's FOIA log, undertake studies and prepare memoranda that address particular issues related to the City's handling and responding to FOIA requests as requested.
- Analyze and communicate, orally and in writing, complex legal principles.
- Advise the City Attorney and City staff on municipal legal matters including researching, interpreting and applying federal and state statutes, rules, regulations, and state and federal case law and City ordinances to specific fact situations.
- Assist in the resolution of complex legal issues and disputes.
- Prepare and review ordinances, resolutions, and other legal documents.
- Research, study, interpret, and analyze legal opinions, memoranda and briefs from other attorneys.
- Research and recommend modifications to existing ordinances and practices and/or proposes new City legislation when requested.
- Utilizes technology in the office for daily duties and in court during litigation.

• Performs other related duties as assigned.

#### JOB REQUIREMENTS

#### KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge and ability acquired through education, training and experience working with attorneys involved in diverse legal matters.
- At least four years of progressively responsible experience as a paralegal ; experience being involved in legal matters involving local units of government is preferred

KNOWLEDGE OF:

- Principles and practices of providing professional legal counsel to include representing the City in litigation, negotiations, financial transactions, and contract development.
- Methods and techniques of legal research including use of computerized Westlaw research.
- Principles of legal and business letter writing and report preparation.
- English usage, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Relevant laws, statutes, codes and regulations.

#### **ABILITY TO:**

- Research legal problems and prepare sound legal opinions.
- Properly interpret and make decisions in accordance with statutes, regulations, rules, case law, and policies.
- Communicate concisely and clearly both orally and in writing and present applicable statements of law clearly and logically.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work including the City Attorney, and other City employees, City Council and board and commission members, and the general public.
- Assume responsibility for and complete assigned work within established deadlines.
- Work independently and complete assigned work with minimum supervision and instruction.
- Prioritize work assignments.
- Exercise sound analytical judgment in assigned work and identify and implement sound decisions in accordance with policies, procedures, and applicable law.
- Tactfully and effectively, handle requests, suggestions, criticisms, and complaints to establish and maintain goodwill with other City employees, City Council, board and commission members, news media, business organizations, and the general public.
- Analyze information and using logic to address work-related issues and problems.
- Pay attention to detail and be thorough in completing work tasks.
- Be organized, reliable, responsible, and dependable in fulfilling obligations.

#### Paralegal

#### City of Urbana

- Accept feedback and calmly and effectively handle highly stressful situations.
- Establish and maintain personally challenging achievement goals and exert effort toward mastering tasks.
- Function effectively and independently with little supervision.
- Maintain composure, keep emotions in check, and control anger, even in very difficult situations.
- Adjust priorities quickly as circumstances dictate.

#### **CERTIFICATES & LICENSES**

#### CONTACTS: INTERNAL/EXTERNAL

• Regular contact with elected and appointed officials, City staff, and members of the public

# WORKING HOURS AND CONDITIONS:

- Standard office setting.
- Indoor working environment with contact with the general public and other City staff and elected and appointed officials.
- The noise level in the work environment is usually quiet.

#### PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

• Essential and marginal functions may require maintaining physical condition necessary for standing or sitting for prolonged periods

From:	McNeil, Ross
To:	Simon, James
Cc:	Mitten, Carol
Subject:	Paralegal Knowledge Skills and Abilities
Date:	Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:50:11 AM
Attachments:	mcneil paralegal ksa.pdf

Jim,

Here is the list of my knowledge, skills and abilities you asked for. I'm certain there are a number of things I've forgotten to include, but I don't want to delay getting it into your hands.

Thanks! Ross

Ross McNeil Executive Department

City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801



From:Simon, JamesTo:Marlin, DianeSubject:RE: Curt Departure TransitionDate:Monday, November 23, 2020 9:45:25 AMAttachments:image002.png

Thank you.

## James L. Simon

City Attorney

Legal Division | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2464



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From: Marlin, Diane <dwmarlin@urbanaillinois.us>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Simon, James <jlsimon@urbanaillinois.us>
Cc: Fluno, Shawn <scfluno@urbanaillinois.us>; Wagner, Caitlin <crwagner@urbanaillinois.us>
Subject: Re: Curt Departure Transition

I approve access by Jim and Caitlin to Curt's email and phone(if phone access is required).

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2020, at 9:27 AM, Simon, James <<u>jlsimon@urbanaillinois.us</u>> wrote:

Mayor –

Please approve Cailin's and my access to Curt's e-mail account. In my capacity as City Attorney, I recommend that you approve such access. We will need this to respond to incoming e-mails and if work is requested, I will need to know about it so I can handle the work or, once we have a law firm on line, parse that work out to that firm.

Caitlin –

Could you please check Curt's office phone to see if the messages light is light. Once you have done this, could you please let Shawn Fluno know whether the light is on or off? Also, once you and I have been authorized by the Mayor to access Curt's e-mail account, could you please check his e-mails at least twice a day for any work-related e-mails. If work other than FOIA is requested, please forward those e-mails on to me. If an e-mail relates to FOIA, please send on to Ross McNeil.

Thanks.

Take care, stay well.

# James L. Simon City Attorney

Legal Division | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2464

<image002.png>

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From:	Hannan, Elizabeth
To:	McNeil, Ross
Subject:	RE: Offer Letter
Date:	Tuesday, December 08, 2020 5:37:33 PM
Attachments:	image003.jpg
	<u>image004.jpg</u>
	image001.jpg

OK – see you tomorrow!

# Elizabeth Hannan HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455

# ?

From: McNeil, Ross
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Hannan, Elizabeth
Subject: RE: Offer Letter
Elizabeth,
Tomorrow afternoon is probably best. I need to be home in the morning in case Fred needs
anything for his hearing at 2:00, then I'll be attending that. I'll walk over after court is done.
I'll email you then to let you know I'm in the building.

Thanks,

Ross

#### **Ross McNeil**

Executive Department City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801

?

From: Hannan, Elizabeth <<u>eahannan@urbanaillinois.us</u>> Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 5:27 PM To: McNeil, Ross <<u>remcneil@urbanaillinois.us</u>> Subject: RE: Offer Letter Hi, Ross – I have a little time at 8, or around the noon hour up until 2 p.m., and then probably late afternoon. Let me know what works for you. Elizabeth Hannan HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455

# ?

From: McNeil, Ross <<u>remcneil@urbanaillinois.us</u>> Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2020 1:44 PM To: Hannan, Elizabeth <<u>eahannan@urbanaillinois.us</u>> Subject: Offer Letter

Elizabeth,

Just following up. Carol stopped by my office yesterday to see if there were issues with the offer. Most importantly, I don't see any obstacle to signing the letter. I do have one or two more things that I need to discuss, preferably in person with you and/or Carol and/or Jim, just to make sure we are all on the same page as I transition from contractor to employee. I recognize that in-person is difficult, especially if it is more than one person. Are you at city hall tomorrow?

Thanks,

Ross

Ross McNeil Executive Department City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801



Elizabeth,

I'll try to get back to you today. I'm hoping to know whether the Attorney General gets his requested extension today. That plays a large role in my scheduling for the next couple weeks. If the extension is granted, I could start as soon as next week.

Thanks,

Ross

-----

Ross McNeil

On Wednesday, November 25, 2020, 12:20:05 PM CST, Hannan, Elizabeth wrote:

Hi, Ross – Hope you are well. I am working on an offer letter to bring you on as a City employee. Carol indicates that you are OK with 35 hours per week, which is the max we can do without a full recruitment. Any more and it would be a civil service position.

Is there a specific date when you'd like to make that transition? We usually include a start date in the offer.

I am happy that you're joining us!

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Hannan

HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455

 
 From:
 McNeil, Ross

 To:
 Hannan, Elizabeth

 Subject:
 RE: offer letter

 Date:
 Thursday, December 03, 2020 3:06:03 PM

 Attachments:
 image003.jpg image004.jpg image001.jpg

#### Elizabeth,

Sounds Good! Thanks, Ross **Ross McNeil** Executive Department City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801

?

From: Hannan, Elizabeth Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 1:40 PM

To: McNeil, Ross

Subject: RE: offer letter

Thanks, Ross – I will probably shoot to get the official offer out Friday – Monday, and then set a start date of December 14, if that sounds OK. That will give us time to do paperwork, set up orientation, etc.

Elizabeth Hannan HR & Finance Director / CFO

HR & Finance Department | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2455

# ?

From: McNeil, Ross <<u>remcneil@urbanaillinois.us</u>>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Hannan, Elizabeth <<u>eahannan@urbanaillinois.us</u>>
Subject: offer letter
Elizabeth,
Sorry for the delay. We finally were notified that the AG got his extension in the
Carle case a day or two ago but I've been dealing with some FOIA stuff in the
meantime and forgot to update you. At this point I'm pretty much into the FOIA stuff
with both feet now, so whatever works for you is fine with me. Tomorrow, next
week, or whatever makes best logistical sense for you.
Thanks,
Ross
Ross McNeil

Executive Department City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801



Thanks Ross. Periodically, please keep me informed about the FOIAs you're handling. I don't necessarily need something in writing. You can just tell me about them

Thanks.

Take care, stay well.

#### James L. Simon City Attorney

Legal Division | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2464



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From: McNeil, Ross <remcneil@urbanaillinois.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Simon, James <jlsimon@urbanaillinois.us>
Cc: Mitten, Carol <cjmitten@urbanaillinois.us>
Subject: Paralegal Knowledge Skills and Abilities

Jim,

Here is the list of my knowledge, skills and abilities you asked for. I'm certain there are a number of things I've forgotten to include, but I don't want to delay getting it into your hands.

Thanks! Ross

# Ross McNeil Executive Department

City of Urbana 400 S. Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801



From:Mitten, CarolTo:Hannan, ElizabethSubject:Ross McNeilDate:Friday, October 02, 2020 11:25:03 AMAttachments:image003.jpg

Got Ross at \$30.00/hour. He would prefer to work in our office on a desktop. Any chance we can move Aqueena to another spot and put Ross in there?

Carol J. Mitten City Administrator City of Urbana 400 S. Vine Street Urbana IL 61801 217.384.2454



From:	Simon, James
To:	McNeil, Ross; Borman Curt
Subject:	Job Description
Date:	Monday, November 09, 2020 2:38:40 PM
Attachments:	image003.png
	Paralegal Job Description - 2020 - DRAFT.docx

Curt & Ross -

Here is my thinking on a Paralegal job description. Your review and comments are most appreciated.

Take care, stay well.

# James L. Simon City Attorney

Legal Division | City of Urbana 400 S Vine St | Urbana, Illinois 61801 217.384.2464



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