



Luther Speight & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS**

**FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT
TOGETHER WITH
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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Luther Speight & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Dr. Sandra Wilson,
Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

Opinion

We have audited the statements of net position, revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance arising from City of New Orleans appropriations of the Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans (the Registrar) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Registrar resulting from City of New Orleans' appropriations, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Registrar, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of a Matter

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements of the Registrar are intended to present the financial position and results of operations arising from the Registrar's appropriations from the City of New Orleans (the City) as of December 31, 2023. As such, the accompanying financial statements present only that portion of the general fund that is attributable to the transactions of the Registrar arising from the annual appropriation made by the City to the Registrar.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Registrar's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registrar's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Registrar's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Registrar's basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head (the schedule) is presented to comply with Act 706 of the 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session and is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 23, 2024, on our consideration of the Registrar's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registrar's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Registrar's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Luther Speight & Co. CPAs

Luther Speight & Company CPAs
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 23, 2024

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
 STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 DECEMBER 31, 2023**

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Cash | \$ 90,072 |
| Due from the City of New Orleans | 6,131 |
| Total Assets | 96,203 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Accrued Payroll | 6,131 |
| Accounts Payable | 9,541 |
| Total Liabilities | 15,672 |

Fund Balance

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Unrestricted Fund Balance | 80,531 |
| Total Fund Balance | 80,531 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | \$ 96,203 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
ARISING FROM CITY OF NEW ORLEANS APPROPRIATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

REVENUES

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Intergovernmental Revenue | \$ 326,951 |
| Total revenue | 326,951 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Salaries and Fringe Benefits | 286,036 |
| Professional Services | 12,525 |
| Dues & Subscriptions | 505 |
| Convention & Travel | 4,800 |
| Office Supplies | 23,085 |
| Total Expenses | 326,951 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Net Change in Fund Balance | - |
| Fund Balance, Beginning of Year | 14,252 |
| Fund Balance Adjustment | 66,279 |
| Fund Balance, End of Year | \$ 80,531 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 1 – BACKGROUND

The Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans (the Registrar) is a non-partisan subdivision of the State of Louisiana and is subject to the direction of the Commissioner of Elections. The Registrar is responsible for the registration of voters and for the administration and enforcement of the laws, rules and regulation of the State of Louisiana and the Louisiana Civil Service Commission, and after appointment can only be removed by majority vote of the State Board of Election Supervisors for conviction of a felony or specific types of conduct, as set forth in Louisiana Revised Statute 18:53.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of the Registrar have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Special-Purpose Financial Statement Presentation

The accompanying special-purpose financial statements include only the appropriations received by the Registrar from the City of New Orleans (the City). As provided by Louisiana Revised Statutes 18:55-59, the State pays, through the Commissioner of Elections, a portion of the salary of the Registrar, the Chief Deputy, and the Confidential Assistant, and one-half of the salaries of the regular employees for each year plus related retirement and other benefits. This compensation is paid directly by the State to the Registrar and its employees and is not included in the accompanying special-purpose financial statements. As such, the accompanying financial statements present only that portion of the general fund that is attributable to the transactions arising from the City's appropriations to the Registrar. In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board pronouncements, the Registrar reports its net position in separate categories: 1) Restricted and 2) Unrestricted.

Restricted Net Position – Includes realized gains and losses, investment income, and gifts and contributions for which donor-imposed restrictions have not been met.

Unrestricted Net Position – Consists of net assets which do not meet the definition of the two preceding categories. Unrestricted net assets often are designated to indicate that management does not consider them to be available for general operations. Unrestricted net assets often have constraints on resources which are imposed by management but can be removed or modified.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Accounting

The Registrar uses the accrual basis of accounting to report on its financial position and statement of activities. As such, revenues are recorded when earned and measurable, and expenditures are recorded when due and payable.

Operating Budget

The Registrar adopts a budget (appropriation request) on a calendar year basis for consideration by the City of New Orleans in the preparation of their operating budget of expenditures. The Registrar's budget is submitted to the City prior to November 1. The City advertises, holds hearings, and not later than December 1, the budget is legally enacted through passage of an ordinance.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing deposits, and time deposits. Under state law, the Coroner's Office may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money-market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States. Cash and cash equivalents include all highly liquid investments. Checks in excess of bank balance are reclassified to liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

Intergovernmental Receivables

Intergovernmental receivables are comprised of amounts due from the City of New Orleans for reimbursement of payroll periods prior to the year ended December 31, 2023 that have not been paid yet. Amounts are considered fully collectable so no allowance for bad debts is considered necessary.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

NOTE 3 – FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENT

A fund balance adjustment totaling \$66,279 was necessary to roll forward the ending fund balance from the prior year audit report, and properly state the current year fund balance after adjusting for prior year activities.

NOTE 4 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated through July 23, 2024, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued. Management advised us that no other reportable matters existed. No subsequent events were evaluated for inclusion in the financial statements subsequent to that date.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT
OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To Dr. Sandra Wilson,
Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans (the Registrar), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Registrar's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 23, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Registrar's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registrar's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registrar's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of the internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Continued,

Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as Finding #2023-001, that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Registrar's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as Finding #2023-002.

Registrar's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Registrar's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The Registrar's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Luther Speight & Co. CPAs

Luther Speight & Company CPAs
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 23, 2024

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Section I – Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

An unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the auditee.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified? Yes No

Significant deficiency(s) identified
not considered to be material weaknesses? Yes No

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? Yes No

Federal Awards - Not Applicable

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

FINDING 2023-001 – FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECONCILIATION (SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY)

CRITERIA:

An accounting system should be maintained that provides timely information and an accurate picture of the municipality's financial condition. Accounting practices should be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). Annual financial reporting provides accountability and is required by state law [Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513].

CONDITION:

The Registrar did not provide audit-ready financial statements for the annual audit. Based upon the financial reports provided and the results of our audit work, we were unable to determine the nature of balances totaling \$66,279. This balance is recorded as a fund balance adjustment as they appear to relate to prior year activities.

CAUSE:

The Registrar did not prepare audit-ready financial statements for year-end.

EFFECT:

This resulted in a fund balance adjustment totaling \$66,279 in order to properly state the ending fund balance amount.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the Registrar update their policies and procedures to include financial statement preparation at year end.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE:

Updates to the Registrar's policies, procedures, and practices will include financial statement preparation. Transitioning management shall be provided tools necessary to support compliance.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

FINDING 2023-002 – TIMELY SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT (NON-COMPLIANCE)

CRITERIA:

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 requires that Agencies receiving federal, state, or local government funding from the State of Louisiana submit an independent financial statement engagement to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s office within six months from their fiscal year end.

CONDITION:

The Registrar did not complete and submit its independent audit report within the required deadline. We noted the Registrar received a non-emergency extension from the LLA, but it still requires a late report audit finding.

CAUSE:

The Registrar had turnover in a key position, which caused a delay in performance, completion, and submission of the annual audit report.

EFFECT:

Late submission can cause the auditee to be put on the non-compliance list and can result in withholding of funding to the auditee.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Registrar should implement policies and procedures to ensure the annual audit begins in a timely manner and to ensure timely filing of any and all required reports.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE:

Policies, procedures, and practices shall be updated to ensure timely submission of required documents, assuring timely audit submission. Transitional management team shall be provided necessary tools to support compliance.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

No findings noted during the year ended December 31, 2022.

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
 SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, PAYMENTS, AND OTHER
 BENEFITS TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Agency Head Name: Dr. Sandra L. Wilson

| Purpose | Amount |
|--|---------------------------|
| Salary | \$ 161,274 |
| Benefits-insurance | N/A |
| Benefits-retirement | Contributions by employee |
| Benefits-other | N/A |
| Car allowance | N/A |
| Vehicle provided by government | N/A |
| Per diem | N/A |
| Reimbursements | N/A |
| Travel | N/A |
| Registration fees | N/A |
| Conference travel | N/A |
| Continuing professional education fees | N/A |
| Housing | N/A |
| Unvouchered expenses* | N/A |
| Special meals | N/A |
| | |



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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS

AGREED UPON PROCEDURES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023



Luther Speight & Company, LLC
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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

To the Honorable Sandra L. Wilson, Ph.D.
Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans' ("Registrar of Voters") management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Registrar of Voters has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations):
 - a) ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget

Results: *The Registrar is housed in City Hall at the City of New Orleans. Budgeting is accomplished through the City Council of New Orleans and is processed through the City's accounting system. The Registrar does not have a need for a separate policy for budgeting.*

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- b) **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.

Results: Purchasing and disbursements are also coordinated and processed through the City's accounting system, so the Registrar follows the City's policies. The Registrar does not have a need for a separate policy for purchasing.

- c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving

Results: See Purchasing above.

- d) **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

Results: The Registrar does not collect actual cash or checks at their office, so there is not a need for a Receipts/Collection policy.

- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked.

Results: The policies and procedures appropriately address the required elements above. We obtained the Registrar's Office Policy Manual, which details payroll procedures.

- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process

Results: Not applicable. All contracts are maintained via the City of New Orleans or the State of Louisiana's purchasing system.

- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases)

Results: Not applicable. The Registrar does not utilize credit cards.

- h) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

Results: *The policies and procedures appropriately address the required elements above. The Registrar complies with the City of New Orleans' Policy for Travel and Business Expenses. We obtained Policy Memorandum No. 9, which details the City's travel policies.*

- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that all employees, including elected officials, annually attest through signature verification that they have read the entity's ethics policy.

Results: *The policies and procedures appropriately address the required elements above. The Registrar follows the City of New Orleans' ethics policies.*

- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

Results: *Not applicable. Client has no debt outstanding.*

- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

Results: *The policies and procedures appropriately address the required elements above. The Registrar follows the City of New Orleans' disaster recover/business continuity policies and procedures.*

- l) **Prevention of Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Results: *The policies and procedures appropriately address the required elements above. We obtained the Registrar's Workplace Policy #20, which details all three elements mentioned.*

Board or Finance Committee

2. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:

Results: *The Registrar does not have a Board of Directors. However, the City of New Orleans has regular meetings and posts videos of the meetings online. AUP step is not applicable to the Registrar.*

- a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
- b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the nonprofit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
- c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- d) Observe whether the Board/Finance Committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Bank Reconciliations

3. Obtain a listing of client bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected each account, and observe that:

Results: *We performed the step above without exception.*

- a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);

Results: *We noted the bank reconciliation was prepared 3 months after year-end.*

Management's Response: *Bank reconciliations for the months indicated were misfiled. Management team members transitioning into new roles will work toward preventative practices.*

- b) Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged); and

Results: *We noted that the bank reconciliation did not include written evidence of management's review.*

Management's Response: *As new management team members transition into their new roles, evidence of management's review will be consistently documented.*

- c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Results: *We noted no reconciling items that were outstanding for more than 12 months from year-end.*

Collections

4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

Results: *We noted that the Registrar does not collect cash or checks at its office location. Any money received is via wire transfers from the City of New Orleans.*

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

Results: *We noted that the Registrar does not collect cash or checks at its office location. Any money received is via wire transfers from the City of New Orleans.*

- a) Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.

Results: *We noted there is no bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash because the Registrar does not collect cash or checks at its office location. Any money received is via wire transfers from the City of New Orleans.*

7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
 - b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
 - c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
 - d) Observe the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
 - e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results: *We noted that the Registrar does not collect cash or checks at its office location. Any money received is via wire transfers from the City of New Orleans.*

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

Results: *Performed step without exception. We noted there is only one location.*

9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

- c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

- d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

Results: *We noted there are no physical checks used for disbursements. All disbursements are made either through wire transfers or electronic payments online.*

10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and:

Results: *Obtained disbursement transaction population and managements representation that the population was complete.*

- a) Observe whether the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.

Result: *Performed step without exception.*

- b) Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

11. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3(a), randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

12. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.

Results: *We noted the Registrar does not have any credit cards. AUP steps regarding Credit Cards are considered not applicable.*

13. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined

statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:

- a) Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder.

[Note: Requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); these instances should not be reported.]

- b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

Results: We noted the Registrar does not have any credit cards. AUP steps regarding Credit Cards are considered not applicable.

14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e., each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing). For each transaction, observe it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Results: We noted the Registrar does not have any credit cards. AUP steps regarding Credit Cards are considered not applicable.

Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

15. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:

Results: We obtained a listing of travel expenses and obtained management’s representation that the listing was complete.

- a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).

Results: *Per diems were not used in our sample selection.*

- b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased

Results: *All travel costs were supported by itemized receipts. No exceptions noted.*

- c) Observe each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).

Results: *Business purpose was documented for each transaction in the sample.*

- d) Observe each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Results: *All travel expense reimbursements were approved by appropriate personnel.*

Contracts

- 16. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:

- a) Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
- b) Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
- c) If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, was approval documented).
- d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Results: *Not applicable. The Registrar contracts are maintained via the City of New Orleans or the State of Louisiana's purchasing systems.*

Payroll and Personnel

17. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.

Results: Of the 5 employees selected, we noted that all 5 of their paid salaries agreed to their authorized pay rates in the personnel files.

18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #17 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:

- a) Observe all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory). (Note: Generally, officials are not eligible to earn leave and do not document their attendance and leave. However, if the official is earning leave according to a policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.)

Results: Performed step without exception.

- b) Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

Results: Performed step without exception.

- c) Observe any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.

Results: Performed step without exception.

- d) Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.

Results: Performed step without exception.

19. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.

Results: *Performed step without exception.*

20. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Results: *Management's representation obtained.*

Ethics

21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:

- a) Observe whether the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.

Results: *No exceptions were noted regarding this requirement.*

- b) Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.

Results: *No changes to the ethics policies were noted that required personnel notifications.*

22. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Results: *We noted the Registrar has appointed the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office's Training & Development Program Manager as the Ethics Designee.*

Debt Service

Results: *We noted no debt was issued during fiscal 2023. Debt Service AUP step is not applicable.*

Fraud Notice

23. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.

Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.

Results: There were no misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period.

24. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Results: We observed the required notice posted on the Registrar's premises. In addition, the Registrar's office is located within City Hall and the lobby has the required postings. The City of New Orleans has the notice posted on their website.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

25. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**

- a) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- b) Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- c) Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

Results: We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

26. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

Results: *We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

27. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #17, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows: 1) Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and 2) Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Results: *We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.*

Prevention of Sexual Harassment

28. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #17 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.

Results: *We performed the step without exception.*

29. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

Results: *We performed the step without exception.*

30. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:

- a) Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements.
- b) Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency.
- c) Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred.
- d) Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and

e) Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results: *We were not provided an official annual sexual harassment report but were provided all the information the report requires. Additionally, we were provided the sexual harassment training certificates of all employees.*

Management Response: *The Registrar will start using the template provided by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor going forward.*

We were engaged by the Registrar of Voters to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of Registrar of Voters for the Parish of Orleans and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Luther Spright & Co. CPAs

Luther Speight & Company CPAs
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 23, 2024