



Jennifer McGuirk Multnomah County Auditor

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Dear Multnomah County Charter Review Committee members,

As you prepare for your final meeting, I write once again to thank you for your service. I appreciate how thoughtfully you have undertaken your work to review and recommend amendments to the County Charter. I am very grateful for the Committee's support of amendments related to the Auditor's Office's efforts to support equitable, transparent, and accountable county government.

In addition to thanking you for your months of service to the county's people, I write to share a final suggestion regarding amendment language. I ask you to consider adding a sentence to the access to information amendment that clarifies the Auditor's Office's ability to access county facilities. This sentence was in the proposed amendments I submitted to the Government Accountability Subcommittee in March 2022 and is based on the Association of Local Government Auditors' model legislation. The sentence reads as follows: All officers and employees of the County shall provide timely access for the auditor to inspect all property, equipment, and facilities within their custody.

My office's work can include in-person verification of equipment and onsite observation of work environments. As I noted in my May 11, 2022 letter to the Government Accountability Subcommittee, my office experienced reduced access to the county's animal shelter following a change in directors at Animal Services. If our ability to inspect property, equipment, and facilities were spelled out in Charter, changes in management personnel would be less likely to negatively impact our ability to serve our accountability function. In turn, this would help ensure that my office can conduct our work efficiently on the public's behalf.

I appreciate your consideration of this suggested addition to the amendment.

Thank you again for your exemplary service,

Jennifer McGuirk, MPA, CIA
Multnomah County Auditor