



## Association of Local Government Auditors

June 19, 2008

LaVonne Griffin-Valade  
501 SE Hawthorne Room 601  
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Ms. Griffin-Valade,

We have completed a peer review of the Multnomah County Auditor's Office for the period April 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007 and issued our report thereon dated June 19, 2008. We are issuing this companion letter to offer certain observations and suggestions stemming from our peer review.

We would like to mention some of the areas in which we believe your office excels:

- Undertaking complex issues in your audit projects.
- Tailoring reports to the audience that will be reading them.
- Maintaining positive communication and relationships with the County Commissioners who are some of your most important customers.
- Maintaining detailed schedules which help staff to target fieldwork and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of audit projects.

We also congratulate the office for receiving the 2007 Knighton Award Bronze for medium audit shops for the Elections Audit that was completed during the review period.

We offer the following observations and suggestions to enhance your organization's demonstrated adherence to government auditing standards:

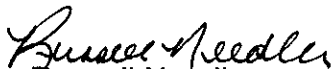
- The Policies and Procedures manual should be updated to include a statement that the County Auditor can choose to decline to perform audit work if a significant impairment exists. The manual currently states that if there is an external impairment the Auditor's Office will attempt to remove it and if unsuccessful disclose the impairment in the audit report.
- The Policies and Procedures manual should be updated to include a statement that the office will provide justification for any departures from government auditing standards.

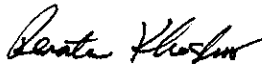
- The Policies and Procedures manual should be updated to include a statement that auditors should assess the reliability of previous audit work before using it in the current project.
- The Policies and Procedures manual should be updated to include a statement that auditors will refer to a management letter in the audit report. A management letter is sent to the auditee separate from the audit report when auditors detect deficiencies in internal control that are not significant.


The suggested updates to the policies and procedures manual are not considered to be significant weaknesses in the internal control system. We did not observe any situations where the Auditor's Office did not adhere to the applicable auditing standards for the period under review.

We extend our thanks to you, your staff and the other city officials we met for the hospitality and cooperation extended to us during our review.

Sincerely,

  
Russell Needler  
Assistant City Auditor  
Office of the City Auditor  
Austin, Texas

  
Renata Khoshroo  
Senior Auditor  
Office of the City Auditor  
Palo Alto, California

  
Marcus Richardson  
Internal Audit Supervisor  
Office of the Auditor  
City and County of  
Denver, Colorado