



External Quality Control Review

of the
King County Auditor's Office
Metropolitan King County Council
King County, Washington

Conducted in accordance with guidelines of the
**Association of Local Government
Auditors**

for the period
January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016



Association of Local Government Auditors

March 31, 2017

KyMBER Waltmunson, County Auditor
King County Auditor's Office
516 3rd Avenue
King County Courthouse, Room 1033
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Waltmunson,

We have completed a peer review of the King County Auditor's Office for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016. In conducting our review, we followed the standards and guidelines contained in the *Peer Review Guide* published by the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA).

We reviewed the internal quality control system of your audit organization and conducted tests in order to determine whether your internal quality control system operated to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our procedures included:

- Reviewing the audit organization's written policies and procedures.
- Reviewing internal monitoring procedures.
- Reviewing a sample of audit and nonaudit engagements and working papers.
- Reviewing documents related to independence, training, and development of auditing staff.
- Interviewing staff and management to assess their understanding of, and compliance with, relevant quality control policies and procedures.

Due to variances in individual performance and judgment, compliance does not imply adherence to standards in every case, but does imply adherence in most situations.

Based on the results of our review, it is our opinion that the King County Auditor's Office internal quality control system was suitably designed and operating effectively to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with *Government Auditing Standards* for performance audits during the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

We have prepared a separate letter offering suggestions to further strengthen your internal quality control system.

Larry D. Stafford
MBA, CIA, CGAP
Clark County, WA

Bonnie Nims
CGAP
County of Hawaii, HI

Caroline Kirschner
MPAff, CGAP
City of Austin, TX



Association of Local Government Auditors

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KyMBER Waltmunson, County Auditor
King County Auditor's Office
516 3rd Avenue
King County Courthouse, Room 1033
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Waltmunson,

We have completed a peer review of the King County Auditor's Office for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 and issued our report thereon dated March 31, 2017. 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:

- Highly qualified and experienced staff
- Collaborative environment leverages knowledge and abilities
- Innovative project management techniques encourage efficiency and results
- Credible reports which are informative and impactful

We offer the following observations and suggestions to enhance your organization's demonstrated adherence to *Government Auditing Standards*:

- Standard 6.11 states that auditors should assess audit risk and significance within the context of the audit objectives by gaining an understanding of six specific topical areas. Two of these are ongoing investigations or legal proceedings and the results of previous audits. We found that one or both of these items were not addressed in the work papers we reviewed for all but one engagement.

We recommend the existing risk assessment template be updated to include these two elements.

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,

Larry D. Stafford
MBA, CIA, CGAP
Clark County, WA

Bonnie Nims
CGAP
County of Hawaii, HI

Caroline Kirschner
MPAff, CGAP
City of Austin, TX