

Reporting and insights from 2022 audit:

City of Milwaukee

December 31, 2022

Executive summary

July 21, 2023

To Honorable Members
Common Council
City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the City of Milwaukee (the City) for the year ended December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated July 21, 2023. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

Your audit should provide you with confidence in your financial statements. The audit was performed based on information obtained from meetings with management, data from your systems, knowledge of your City's operating environment and our risk assessment procedures. We strive to provide you clear, concise communication throughout the audit process and of the final results of our audit.

Additionally, we have included information on key risk areas the City of Milwaukee should be aware of in your strategic planning. We are available to discuss these risks as they relate to your organization's financial stability and future planning.

If you have questions at any point, please connect with us:

- Paul Frantz, CPA, Partner: paul.frantz@bakertilly.com or +1 (414) 777 5506
- Jodi Dobson, CPA, Partner: jodi.dobson@bakertill.com or +1 (608) 240 2469

Sincerely,

Baker Tilly US, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Frantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul J. Frantz, CPA, Partner

Responsibilities

Our responsibilities

As your independent auditor, our responsibilities include:

- Planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.
- Assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. Included in that assessment is a consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting.
- Performing appropriate procedures based upon our risk assessment.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management.
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit about whether the financial statements prepared by management, with the oversight of Common Council:
 - Are free from material misstatement
 - Present fairly, in all material respects and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Performing tests related to compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, as required by *Government Auditing Standards*
- Considering internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on major federal and major state programs to design tests of both controls and compliance with identified requirements
- Forming and expressing an opinion based on our audit in accordance with OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and *State Single Audit Guidelines* about the entity's compliance with requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* and *State Single Audit Guidelines* that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal and state programs.
- Our audit does not relieve management or the Common Council of their responsibilities.

We are also required to communicate significant matters related to our audit that are relevant to the responsibilities of the Common Council, including:

- Internal control matters
- Qualitative aspects of the City's accounting practice including policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures
- Significant unusual transactions
- Significant difficulties encountered
- Disagreements with management
- Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report
- Audit consultations outside the engagement team
- Corrected and uncorrected misstatements
- Other audit findings or issues

Audit status

Significant changes to the audit plan

There were no significant changes made to either our planned audit strategy or to the significant risks and other areas of emphasis identified during the performance of our risk assessment procedures.

Audit approach and results

Planned scope and timing

Audit focus

Based on our understanding of the City and environment in which you operate, we focused our audit on the following key areas:

- Key transaction cycles
- Areas with significant estimates
- Implementation of new accounting standards
- Areas of complexity including federal and state grant programs

Our areas of audit focus were informed by, among other things, our assessment of materiality. Materiality in the context of our audit was determined based on specific qualitative and quantitative factors combined with our expectations about the City's current year results.

Key areas of focus and significant findings

Significant risks of material misstatement

A significant risk is an identified and assessed risk of material misstatement that, in the auditor's professional judgment, requires special audit consideration. Within our audit, we focused on the following areas below.

Significant risk areas	Testing approach	Conclusion
Management override of controls	Incorporate unpredictability into audit procedures, emphasize professional skepticism and utilize audit team with industry expertise	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion
Improper revenue recognition due to fraud	Confirmation or validation of certain revenues supplemented with detailed predictive analytics based on non-financial data and substantive testing of related receivables	Procedures identified provided sufficient evidence for our audit opinion

Other areas of emphasis

We also focused on other areas that did not meet the definition of a significant risk, but were determined to require specific awareness and a unique audit response.

Other areas of emphasis		
Cash and investments	Revenues and receivables	General disbursements
Payroll	Pension and OPEB liabilities	Long-term debt
Capital assets including infrastructure	Net position calculations	Financial reporting and required disclosures

Internal control matters

We considered the City's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements. We are not expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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.

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 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. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Other comments and recommendations

DEPARTMENTAL CONTROLS

As part of our annual audit process, we focus our efforts on the primary accounting systems, internal controls, and procedures used by the City. This is in keeping with our goal to provide an audit opinion which states that the financial statements of the City are correct in all material respects.

In some cases, the primary system of accounting procedures and controls of the City are supported by smaller systems which are decentralized and reside within a department or location. In many cases, those systems are as simple as handling cash collections and remitting those collections to the City treasurer. (For example, this would be the case in a typical municipal library.) In other cases, the department may send invoices or statements of amounts due, and track collections of those amounts in a standalone accounts receivable system. (For example, this would be the case in a typical municipal court.)

Generally, the more centralized a function is, the easier it is to design and implement accounting controls that provide some level of checks and balances. That is because you are able to divide certain tasks over the people available to achieve some segregation of duties. For those tasks that are decentralized, it can be difficult to provide for proper segregation of duties. Therefore, with fewer people being involved in most or all aspects of a transaction, you lose the ability to rely on the controls to achieve the safeguarding of assets and reliability of financial records.

As auditors, we are required to communicate with you on a variety of topics. Since there is now more emphasis on internal controls and management's responsibilities, we believe it is appropriate to make sure that you are informed about departments or locations that handle cash or do miscellaneous billing. Examples in your City that fit this situation may include the following:

Municipal court	Library	Police Department
Health Department	Parking	Fire Department

As you might expect, similar situations are common in most governments.

As auditors, we are required to focus on the financial statements at a highly summarized level and our audit procedures support our opinion on those financial statements. Departments or locations that handle relatively smaller amounts of money are not the primary focus of our audit. Yet, due to the potential lack of segregation of duties, the opportunity for loss is higher there than in centralized functions that have more controls.

Because management is responsible for designing and implementing controls and procedures to detect and prevent fraud, we believe that is important for us to communicate this information to you. We have no knowledge of any misappropriations that have occurred or are suspected to have occurred within the departments mentioned above. However, your role as the governing body is to assess your risk areas and determine that the appropriate level of controls and procedures are in place. As always, the costs of controls and staffing must be weighed against the perceived benefits of safeguarding your assets.

Without adding staff or splitting up the duties, your own day-to-day contact and knowledge of the operation are also important mitigating factors.

Required communications

Qualitative aspect of accounting practices

- Accounting policies: Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we have advised management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 of the financial statements. As described in Note 1, the City changed accounting policies related to leases and conduit debt by adopting GASB 87: *Leases* and GASB 91: *Conduit Debt*, respectively, in 2022. We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which accounting policies are controversial or for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus or diversity in practice.
- Accounting estimates: Accounting estimates, including fair value estimates, are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements, the degree of subjectivity involved in their development and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The following estimates are of most significance to the financial statements:

Estimate	Management's process to determine	Baker Tilly's conclusions regarding reasonableness
Net pension liability and related deferrals	Evaluation of information provided by the Wisconsin Retirement System of the City of Milwaukee	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Self-insurance claims	Historical claims analysis and report provided by a 3 rd party administrator	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Allowance for doubtful accounts	Evaluation of historical revenues and loss levels with the analysis on collectability of individual amounts	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Total OPEB liability and related deferrals	Key assumptions set by management with the assistance of a third party actuary and information provided by the health insurance and life insurance plans	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Depreciation	Evaluate estimated useful life of the asset and original acquisition value	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole
Claims and judgments	Merits of individual claims estimated by City Attorney's office	Reasonable in relation to the financial statements as a whole

There have been no significant changes made by management to either the processes used to develop the particularly sensitive accounting estimates, or to the significant assumptions used to develop the estimates, noted above.

- Financial statement disclosures: The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear.

Significant unusual transactions

There have been no significant transactions that are outside the normal course of business for the City or that otherwise appear to be unusual due to their timing, size or nature.

Significant difficulties encountered during the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management and completing our audit.

Disagreements with management

Professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Audit report

There have been no departures from the auditors' standard report.

Audit consultations outside the engagement team

We encountered no difficult or contentious matters for which we consulted outside of the engagement team.

Uncorrected misstatements and corrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and to communicate accumulated misstatements to management. The schedule within the Appendix summarizes the uncorrected misstatements, other than those that are clearly trivial, that we presented to management and the material corrected misstatements that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. In our judgment, neither the uncorrected misstatements nor the misstatements that management corrected, either individually or in the aggregate, indicate matters that could have had a significant effect on the Company's financial reporting process.

Management has determined that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the basic financial statements under audit.

Other audit findings or issues

We encountered no other audit findings or issues that require communication at this time.

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other information in documents containing audited basic financial statements

Annual report (or equivalent document which we read)

The City's audited financial statements includes the other information (OI) as described in the Independent Auditors' Report. Our responsibility for this information does not extend beyond the financial information identified in the audit report and we are not required to perform any procedures to corroborate such other information. We have read the OI to determine whether a material inconsistency exists between the OI and the financial statements. Nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that such information, or its manner of presentation, was materially inconsistent with the information, or manner of its presentation, in the financial statements.

Official statements

The City's audited financial statements are "general purpose" financial statements. General purpose financial statements consist of the basic financial statements that can be used by a broad group of people for a broad range of activities. Once we have issued our audit report, we have no further obligation to update our report for events occurring subsequent to the date of our report. The City can use the audited financial statements in other client prepare documents, such as official statements related to the issuance of debt, without our acknowledgement. Unless we have been engaged to perform services in connection with any subsequent transaction requiring the inclusion of our audit report, as well as to issue an auditor's acknowledgment letter, we have neither read the document nor performed subsequent event procedures in order to determine whether or not our report remains appropriate.

Management's consultations with other accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing or accounting matters.

Written communications between management and Baker Tilly

The Appendix include copies of other material written communications, including a copy of the management representation letter.

Compliance with laws and regulations

We did not identify any non-compliance with laws and regulations during our audit.

We will issue a separate document which contains the results of our audit procedures to comply with the Uniform Guidance and *State Single Audit Guidelines*.

Fraud

We did not identify any known or suspected fraud during our audit.

Going concern

Pursuant to professional standards, we are required to communicate to you, when applicable, certain matters relating to our evaluation of the City's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time but no less than 12 months from the date of the financial statements, including the effects on the financial statements and the adequacy of the related disclosures, and the effects on the auditor's report. No such matters or conditions have come to our attention during our engagement.

Independence

We are not aware of any relationships between Baker Tilly and the City that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Related parties

We did not have any significant findings or issues arise during the audit in connection with the City's related parties.

Other matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to the supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the other information, which accompanies the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information, and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Finance and Personnel Committee resources

Visit our resource page for regulatory updates, trending challenges and opportunities in your industry and other timely updates.

Visit the resource page at <https://www.bakertilly.com/insights/audit-committee-resource-page>.

Management representation letter



Aycha Sawa, CPA, CIA
Comptroller

Bill Christianson
Deputy Comptroller

Toni Biscobing
Special Deputy Comptroller

Richard Bare, CPA
Special Deputy Comptroller

July 21, 2023

Baker Tilly US, LLP
777 E. Wisconsin Avenue, 32nd Floor
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Baker Tilly US, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the City of Milwaukee as of December 31, 2022 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Milwaukee and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). We confirm that we are responsible for the fair presentation of the previously mentioned financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We are also responsible for adopting sound accounting policies, establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting, and preventing and detecting fraud.

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have engaged you to advise us in fulfilling that responsibility. The financial statements include all properly classified funds of the districts required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility 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.



- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, if any, are reasonable.
- 6) All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. No other events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the aforementioned financial statements or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
- 7) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards.
- 8) We believe the effects of the uncorrected financial statement misstatements summarized in the attached schedule are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole. In addition, you have recommended adjusting journal entries, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
- 9) The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the City is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

- 11) We have provided you with:
 - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as financial records and related data, documentation, and other matters and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
 - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d) Minutes of the meetings of Common Council or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 12) We have not completed an assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 13) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - a) Management,
 - b) Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or

- c) Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 14) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- 15) We have no knowledge of known instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 16) There are no related parties or related party relationships and transactions, including side agreements, of which we are aware.

Other

- 17) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 18) We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- 19) We have identified to you any previous financial audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 20) We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for our report.
- 21) The City has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 22) We are responsible for compliance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits, debt contracts, and IRS arbitrage regulations; and we have identified and disclosed to you all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 23) There are no:
 - a) Violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, federal, state, and local laws or regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance, except those already disclosed in the financial statement, if any.
 - b) Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
 - c) Nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned fund balances that were not properly authorized and approved.
 - d) Rates being charged to customers other than the rates as authorized by the applicable authoritative body.

- e) Violations of restrictions placed on revenues as a result of bond resolution covenants such as revenue distribution or debt service funding.
- 24) The City of Milwaukee has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
 - 25) The City of Milwaukee has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
 - 26) The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations, if any. Component units have been properly presented as either blended or discrete.
 - 27) The financial statements include all fiduciary activities required by GASB No. 84.
 - 28) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
 - 29) All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement No. 34 and No. 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
 - 30) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and components of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
 - 31) The City of Milwaukee has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
 - 32) Provisions for uncollectible receivables, if any, have been properly identified and recorded.
 - 33) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
 - 34) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.
 - 35) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
 - 36) Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).
 - 37) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.
 - 38) We believe that the estimate made for the pollution remediation liability is in accordance with GASB 49 and reflects all known available facts at the time it was recorded.
 - 39) Tax-exempt bonds issued have retained their tax-exempt status.

- 40) We have appropriately disclosed the City of Milwaukee's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available and have determined that net position were properly recognized under the policy. We have also disclosed our policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available.
- 41) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 42) With respect to the supplementary information, (SI):
 - a) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SI in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and we believe the SI, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SI have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information.
 - b) If the SI is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditor's report thereon.
- 43) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the findings of specialists in evaluating the total OPEB liability and related deferred inflows/outflows and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.
- 44) We agree with the restatement presented in the current year's financial statements.
- 45) We assume responsibility for, and agree with, the information provided by the Employees' Retirement System of the City of Milwaukee as audited by Baker Tilly US, LLP relating to the net pension asset/liability and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows and have adequately considered the reasonableness of the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We also assume responsibility for the census data that has been reported to the plan.
- 46) We have evaluated and considered all potential tax abatements and believe all material tax abatements have been properly reported and disclosed.
- 47) We have implemented GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, and believe that all required disclosures and accounting considerations have been identified and properly classified in the financial statements in compliance with the Standard.
- 48) We have implemented GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, and believe that all required disclosures and accounting considerations have been identified and properly classified in the financial statements in compliance with the Standard.
- 49) We have identified any leases or other contracts that are required to be reported as leases and are in agreement with the key assumptions used in the measurement of any lease related assets, liabilities or deferred inflows of resources.

- 50) We are responsible for the estimation methods and assumptions used in measuring assets and liabilities reported or disclosed at fair value, including information obtained from brokers, pricing services or third parties. Our valuation methodologies have been consistently applied from period to period. The fair value measurements reported or disclosed represent our best estimate of fair value as the measurement date in accordance with the requirements of GASB 72 – *Fair Value Measurement*. In addition our disclosures related to fair value measurements are consistent with the objectives outlined in GASB 72. We have evaluated the fair value information provided to us by brokers, pricing services or other parties that has been used in the financial statements and believe this information to be reliable and consistent with the requirements.
- 51) The auditing standards define an annual report as “a document, or combination of documents, typically prepared on an annual basis by management or those charged with governance in accordance with law, regulation, or custom, the purpose of which is to provide owners (or similar stakeholders) with information on the entity’s operations and the financial results and financial position as set out in the financial statements.” Among other items, an annual report contains, accompanies, or incorporates by reference the financial statements and the auditors’ report thereon. Our annual report is comprised of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. We have provided you with the final version of the annual report. There are no material inconsistencies between the financial statements and any other information contained within the annual report.
- 52) With respect to federal and state award programs:
- a) We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, *OMB’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), *State Single Audit Guidelines*, including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards (SEFSA).
 - b) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SEFSA and related disclosures in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the State Single Audit Guidelines, and we believe the SEFSA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*. The methods of measurement and presentation of the SEFSA have not changed from those used in the prior period and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the SEFSA.
 - c) If the SEFSA is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFSA no later than the date we issue the SEFSA and the auditors’ report thereon.
 - d) We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and included in the SEFSA, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of grants, federal cost reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other direct assistance.
 - e) We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements related to each of our federal and state programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major federal and state program.

- f) We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal and state programs that provide reasonable assurance that we are administering our federal and state awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal and state programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended. Also, no changes have been made in the internal control over compliance or other factors to the date of this letter that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action taken with regard to control deficiencies reported in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
- g) We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal or state agencies or pass-through entities relevant to the programs and related activities.
- h) We have received no requests from a federal or state agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- i) We have complied with the direct and material compliance requirements including when applicable, those set forth in the OMB Compliance Supplement and the State Single Audit Guidelines, relating to federal and state awards.
- j) We have disclosed any communications from grantors and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- k) We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation agreements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, if any, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditors' report.
- l) Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in the Uniform Guidance.
- m) We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- n) We have made available to you all documentation related to the compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
- o) We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period affecting noncompliance during the reporting period.
- p) We are not aware of any instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements that occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditors' report.
- q) No changes have been made in internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action we have taken regarding significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, subsequent to the date as of which compliance was audited.
- r) Federal and state program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the financial statements have been prepared.

- s) The copies of federal and state program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal and state agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- t) We have monitored subrecipients to determine that they have expended pass-through assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and have met the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.
- u) We have taken appropriate action, including issuing management decisions, on a timely basis after receipt of subrecipients' auditors' reports that identified noncompliance with laws, regulations, or the provisions of contracts or grant agreements to ensure that subrecipients have taken the appropriate and timely corrective action on findings.
- v) We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- w) We have charged costs to federal and state awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- x) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by the Uniform Guidance and the *State Single Audit Guidelines* and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal and state awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
- y) We are responsible for and have ensured the reporting package does not contain protected personally identifiable information.
- z) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- aa) We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.
- ab) We have disclosed to you all contracts or other agreements with our service organizations, and we have disclosed to you all communications from the service organization relating to noncompliance at the service organizations.

Sincerely,

City of Milwaukee

Signed: 
Ms. Aycha Sawa, CPA, CIA, Comptroller **RS**

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED FINANCIAL STATEMENT MISSTATEMENTS

December 31, 2022

	Financial Statements Effect -					
	Debit (Credit) to Financial Statement Total		Total		Change in	
	Total Assets/ Deferred Outflows	Total Liabilities/ Deferred Inflows	Net Position/ Fund Balances	Total Revenues	Total Expenses/ Expenditures	Net Position/ Fund Balances
	\$ (290,673)	\$ 290,673	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Governmental Activities	111,565	(405,404)	(293,839)	(482,904)	114,731	(368,173)
Business-Type Activities	(290,673)	290,673	-	-	-	-
General Fund	517,766	(780,390)	(262,624)	179,108	83,516	262,624
Water Works	182,879	(214,094)	(31,215)	-	31,215	31,215
Sewer	(589,080)	589,080	-	(662,012)	-	(662,012)
Remaining Funds						

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Accounting changes relevant to the City of Milwaukee

Future accounting standards update

GASB Statement Number	Description	Potentially Impacts you	Effective Date
94	Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements	✓	12/31/23
96	Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements	✓	12/31/23
99	Omnibus 2022	✓	12/31/23
100	Accounting Changes and Error Corrections	✓	12/31/24
101	Compensated Absences	✓	12/31/24

Further information on upcoming [GASB pronouncements](#).

Determining if GASB 94 applies for your organization

GASB 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements* provides guidance related to public-private and public-public partnerships (PPP) and availability payment arrangements (APA).

A PPP is an arrangement in which an entity contracts with an operator to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use infrastructure or other capital asset. A common example of PPP is a service concession arrangement.

An APA is an arrangement in which an entity compensates an operator for services that may include designing, constructing, financing, maintaining, or operating an asset.

The City should start to identify any contracts that could meet either definition to ensure they are reviewed for applicability and accounted for correctly when the standard is effective. Initial steps include reviewing contracts that didn't meet the definition of a lease under GASB 87 and identifying any other agreements where the organization contracts with or partners with another entity to provide services.

Future accounting for subscription-based IT arrangements

Subscription-based IT arrangements include contracts that convey control of the right to use another party's IT software. It would not include any licensing arrangements that provide a perpetual license, which would still be accounted for as an intangible asset. Subscription-based IT arrangements are becoming more and more popular with IT vendors. This standard mirrors the new lease standard. The City will be able to utilize the systems put into place to implement the lease standard to properly account for these contracts. Common examples of these contracts in the utility industry include:

- Leasing space in the cloud
- GIS systems
- SCADA systems
- Some work order or inventory systems as well as some general ledger or billing systems

The City should work with its IT department and department managers to determine a population listing of contracts that would fall under this standard to determine the potential future impact to financial reporting.

Uncorrected misstatements

Financial statement effects – debit (credit) to financial statement total:

Opinion unit	Total assets/ deferred outflows	Total liabilities/ deferred inflows	Total net position/ fund balance	Total revenues	Total expenses/ expenditures	Change in net position/ fund balance
Governmental activities	\$(290,673)	\$290,673	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Business-type activities	111,565	(405,404)	(293,839)	(482,904)	114,731	(368,173)
General Fund	(290,673)	290,673	-	-	-	-
Water Works	517,766	(780,390)	(262,624)	179,108	83,516	262,624
Sewer	182,879	(214,094)	(31,215)	-	31,215	31,215
Remaining funds	(589,080)	589,080	-	(662,012)	-	(662,012)

Two-way audit communications

As part of our audit of your financial statements, we are providing communications to you throughout the audit process. Auditing requirements provide for two-way communication and are important in assisting the auditor and you with more information relevant to the audit.

As this past audit is concluded, we use what we have learned to begin the planning process for next year's audit. It is important that you understand the following points about the scope and timing of our next audit:

- a. We address the significant risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, through our detailed audit procedures.
- b. We will obtain an understanding of the five components of internal control sufficient to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to error or fraud, and to design the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures. We will obtain a sufficient understanding by performing risk assessment procedures to evaluate the design of controls relevant to an audit of financial statements and to determine whether they have been implemented. We will use such knowledge to:
 - Identify types of potential misstatements.
 - Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement.
 - Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.
- c. We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations and provisions of contracts or grant programs. For audits performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our report will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance and that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.
- d. The concept of materiality recognizes that some matters, either individually or in the aggregate, are important for fair presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles while other matters are not important. In performing the audit, we are concerned with matters that, either individually or in the aggregate, could be material to the financial statements. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, *OMB's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*.

We will not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant programs. For audits done in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, our report will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe (a) the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, (b) the scope of testing internal control over compliance for major programs and major program compliance and the result of that testing and to provide an opinion on compliance but not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance and, (c) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the Uniform Guidance, and the *State Single Audit Guidelines*, in considering internal control over compliance and major program compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

- e. Your financial statements contain components, as defined by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which we also audit.

We are very interested in your views regarding certain matters. Those matters are listed here:

- a. We typically will communicate with your top level of management unless you tell us otherwise.
- b. We understand that the governing board has the responsibility to oversee the strategic direction of your organization, as well as the overall accountability of the entity. Management has the responsibility for achieving the objectives of the entity.
- c. We need to know your views about your organization's objectives and strategies, and the related business risks that may result in material misstatements.
- d. Which matters do you consider warrant particular attention during the audit, and are there any areas where you request additional procedures to be undertaken?
- e. Have you had any significant communications with regulators or grantor agencies?
- f. Are there other matters that you believe are relevant to the audit of the financial statements?

Also, is there anything that we need to know about the attitudes, awareness and actions of the governing body concerning:

- a. The entity's internal control and its importance in the entity, including how those charged with governance oversee the effectiveness of internal control?
- b. The detection or the possibility of fraud?

We also need to know if you have taken actions in response to developments in financial reporting, laws, accounting standards, governance practices, or other related matters, or in response to previous communications with us.

With regard to the timing of our audit, here is some general information. If necessary, we may do preliminary financial audit work during the months of October-December, and sometimes early in January. Our final financial fieldwork is scheduled during the spring to best coincide with your readiness and report deadlines. After fieldwork, we wrap up our financial audit procedures at our office and may issue drafts of our report for your review. Final copies of our report and other communications are issued after approval by your staff. This is typically 6-12 weeks after final fieldwork, but may vary depending on a number of factors.

Keep in mind that while this communication may assist us with planning the scope and timing of the audit, it does not change the auditor's sole responsibility to determine the overall audit strategy and the audit plan, including the nature, timing and extent of procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence.

We realize that you may have questions on what this all means, or wish to provide other feedback. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.