

To the Members of the Board of Finance
City of Stamford, Connecticut

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, for the year ended June 30, 2018. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated June 5, 2018. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City of Stamford, Connecticut, are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. Management has adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, and GASB Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017*. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting 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 and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were as follows:

Management's estimate of the net pension liability is based on an actuarial valuation utilizing various assumptions and estimates approved by management.

Management's estimate of the net other post employment benefit (OPEB) liability is based on an actuarial valuation utilizing various assumptions and estimates approved by management.

Management's estimate of the useful lives of governmental activities and business-type activities capital assets, which are used in computing depreciation in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements.

Management's estimate of the allowance for doubtful accounts related to taxes, sewer use and special connection receivable is based on certain historical data and currently known information.

Management's estimate of the allowance for loss contingencies is based on information provided by legal counsel.

Management's estimate of the incurred but not reported liability is based on information provided by the insurance provider and approved by management.

Management's estimate of the workers' compensation and heart and hypertension liability is based on an actuarial valuation utilizing various assumptions and approved by management.

Management's estimate of the pollution remediation obligation is based on information from existing contracts provided by project managers and approved by management.

We have evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the above estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear. There were no sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

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

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, 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.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 28, 2018.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

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 governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

In connection with the audit, we have issued a management letter with suggestions for improvements to controls and best practices.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, 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.

This information is intended solely for the use of Board of Finance and management of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.

West Hartford, Connecticut
December 28, 2018