

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF
THE CITY OF STOUGHTON**

Stoughton, Wisconsin

COMMUNICATION TO THOSE CHARGED
WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2019

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF STOUGHTON

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**REQUIRED COMMUNICATION OF INTERNAL CONTROL RELATED MATTERS
IDENTIFIED IN THE AUDIT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

To the Commissioners
Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton
Stoughton, Wisconsin

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered its internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of its 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. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and a deficiency that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

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 consider the following deficiencies in the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's internal control to be material weaknesses:

- > Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
- > Internal Control Environment

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the following deficiency in the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's internal control to be a significant deficiency.

- > Information Technology System Internal Controls

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, those charged with governance, and others within the organization and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
April 28, 2020

Auditing standards require that we perform procedures to obtain an understanding of your government and its internal control environment as part of the annual audit. This includes an analysis of significant transaction cycles, an analysis of the housing authority's year-end financial reporting process, and preparation of your financial statements, including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Properly designed systems of internal control provides your organization with the ability to process and record monthly and year end transactions and prepare annual financial reports.

Our audit includes a review and evaluation of the housing authority's internal controls relating to financial reporting. Common attributes of a properly designed system of internal control for financial reporting are as follows:

- > There is adequate staffing to prepare financial reports throughout the year and at year-end.
- > Material misstatements are identified and corrected during the normal course of duties.
- > Complete and accurate financial statements, including footnotes, are prepared.
- > Complete and accurate schedule of expenditures of federal awards is prepared.
- > Financial reports are independently reviewed for completeness and accuracy.

Our evaluation of the internal controls over financial reporting has identified control deficiencies that are considered material weaknesses surrounding the preparation of financial statements and footnotes including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, adjusting journal entries identified by the auditors, and an independent review of financial reports.

Management has not prepared financial statements that are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles or the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that are in conformance with the applicable federal requirements. In addition, material misstatements in the general ledger were identified during the financial audit.

This level of internal control over financial reporting can be a difficult task for governments that operate with only enough staff to process monthly transactions and reports, and often rely on their auditors to prepare certain year-end audit entries and financial statements.

INTERNAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

A properly designed system of internal control includes adequate staffing as well as policies and procedures to properly segregate duties. This includes systems that are designed to limit the access or control of any one individual to your government's assets or accounting records, and to achieve a higher likelihood that errors or irregularities in the housing authority's accounting processes would be discovered by your staff in a timely manner.

At this time, due to staffing and financial limitations, the proper internal controls are not in place to achieve adequate segregation of duties. As a result, errors, irregularities or fraud could occur as part of the financial reporting process that may not be discovered by someone in your organization. Therefore, we are reporting a material weakness related to the internal control environment.

INTERNAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT (cont.)

There are also certain controls that are not currently in place related to significant transaction cycles. As a result, there is a risk that erroneous or unauthorized transactions or misstatements could occur without the knowledge of management or the governing body. Our recommendations for strengthening controls are listed below.

CONTROLS OVER MONTHLY AND YEAR-END ACCOUNTING

- > Account reconciliations, including monthly bank reconciliations, prepared throughout the year should be performed by someone independent of processing transactions in the account. These reconciliations should be reviewed by someone other than the preparer.
- > All adjusting journal entries should contain supporting documentation and should be reviewed and approved by an appropriate person who is not the original preparer.
- > The monthly requests for HAP payments and journal entries were performed by the same person during 2019. Separation of these activities is important to maintain adequate segregation of duties.

We recommend that a designated employee review the segregation of duties, risks, and these potential controls and determine whether additional controls should be implemented. This determination should take into consideration a cost / benefit analysis.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM INTERNAL CONTROLS

As part of our 2019 audit, we evaluated the information technology controls as they relate to financially significant applications. Our procedures primarily focused on documenting and evaluating general computer controls, including: logical access to data and applications, change and incident management, systems development and deployment and data backup and recovery.

The following points contain suggestions for strengthening internal controls in these areas:

- > Individuals with administrative access to the servers, databases, and network are not restricted to people who do not have access to modify accounting data in the application layer.
- > Third-party vendor access should be restricted and vendors should request permission before accessing the system.
- > Passwords to the accounting software should be changed on a regular basis and should have complexity rules in place.

Since the controls listed above or other compensating controls are not currently in place, errors or irregularities could occur as part of the accounting processes that might not be discovered by management or the governing body. Therefore, the absence of these controls is considered to be a significant deficiency.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT

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 or material noncompliance related to federal awards 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 or noncompliance.
 - > Consider factors that affect the risks of material misstatement or material noncompliance.
 - > Design tests of controls, when applicable, and substantive procedures.

Our audit will be performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

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* and the Uniform Guidance, 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 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.

- c. 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 or for reporting material noncompliance 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 or to the entity's federal awards. Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that material misstatements or material noncompliance, whether caused by errors or fraud, are detected.

TWO WAY COMMUNICATION REGARDING YOUR AUDIT (cont.)

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 housing authority 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 or the federal awards?

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

- a. The housing authority'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 January. Our final financial fieldwork is scheduled during January and February 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.

**COMMUNICATION OF OTHER CONTROL DEFICIENCIES, RECOMMENDATIONS
AND INFORMATIONAL POINTS TO MANAGEMENT THAT ARE NOT
MATERIAL WEAKNESSES OR SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS

DEPRECIATION ON CAPITAL ASSETS

The housing authority maintains a record of its capital assets in a spreadsheet that aids in calculating ending balances and annual depreciation. These balances are reported in the housing authority's statement of net position and capital assets footnote. Useful lives over which the asset costs are depreciated should be reflective of the actual lives the asset is used. We noted that many of the housing authority's capital assets are fully depreciated, but are still being used by the housing authority. This indicates that the useful lives originally assigned by the housing authority are too low. This has an effect of understating the capital assets while overstating or accelerating the depreciation expense reported in the financial statements. We recommend that housing authority management review useful lives of existing assets and potentially re-align those lives with actual usage and expectations or remove items no longer in use.

Status (12/31/19)

It was noted that certain capital assets are fully depreciated and still being used by the housing authority. This point is still considered relevant.

INFORMATIONAL POINTS

CYBER SECURITY MANAGEMENT

The sources of cyber threats continue to grow in number and sophistication. We have seen social engineering, including email phishing, and ransomware attacks cause disruption and monetary losses in the government landscape. Cybersecurity controls are imperative and may be of several different types:

- > Preventative – activities that make attacks more difficult such as user access and password controls
- > Detective – activities conducted to discover security incidents such as automated or manual reviews of firewall and server logs
- > Responsive – activities performed once an incident has been identified such as a communication plan

Step one in determining which types of controls are best suited for your government is completing a data classification. This process includes identifying what types of data exist, determining data location, and measuring costs associated with the loss of data (i.e. – operational downtime, regulatory fines, or civil lawsuits). This information will help management and those charged with governance be able to evaluate the cost-benefit of control implementation. Even if your government has chosen to obtain cyber liability insurance to mitigate risk, the data classification remains an important exercise to help evaluate the policy coverage, pricing, and what, if any, exposure remains outside of your policy.

Data classification is only one piece of a sustainable cyber security management plan. We have professionals dedicated to cyber security and information technology risk to assist with your cyber security questions, assessments, and programs.

GOVERNMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION: NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

When it comes to preventing and detecting fraud in government, being proactive is critical. In fact, government is the second most likely industry to be impacted by fraud. According to the audit standards, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management. To get started, your government should conduct a fraud risk assessment to identify where and how fraud might occur and what individuals may be in a position to commit fraud. Once you've identified your entity's fraud risk areas, the next step is to develop a fraud risk assessment and investigation policy.

As you begin your fraud risk assessment or develop tools to prevent and detect fraud, it is important to keep in mind the following information provided by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners:

- > Misappropriation of assets accounts for 87 percent of fraud
- > The primary internal control weaknesses observed are lack of internal controls, lack of management review, override of existing internal controls and poor tone at the top
- > A tip is the most effective tool to catch a fraudster followed by management review
- > The professional requirements and objectives of a financial audit are different than a forensic audit. Due to the nature of a financial audit, less than 10 percent of frauds have been discovered as a result of forensic audit conducted by an independent accounting firm.

Your government has not gone through a fraud risk assessment and does not have a plan to prevent and detect fraud. We recommend that this be done and then updated on a regular basis. We are available to assist you with this process.

REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS BY THE AUDITOR TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

To the Commissioners
Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton
Stoughton, Wisconsin

Thank you for using Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP as your auditor.

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton for the year ended December 31, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated April 28, 2020. This letter presents communications required by our professional standards.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS, AND THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

The objective of a financial statement audit is the expression of an opinion on the financial statements. We conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). These standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are free of material misstatement, whether caused by error or fraud. Our audit included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

We considered the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's internal control over financial reporting. We also considered internal control over compliance with types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for a major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit. Also, in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we examined, on a test basis, evidence about the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's compliance with those requirements. While our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance, it does not provide a legal determination on the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton's compliance with those requirements.

We have issued a separate document which contains the results of our audit procedures to comply with the Uniform Guidance.

OTHER INFORMATION IN DOCUMENTS CONTAINING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our responsibility does not extend beyond the audited financial statements identified in this report. We do not have any obligation to and have not performed any procedures to corroborate other information contained in client prepared documents.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our letter about planning matters dated May 23, 2019.

QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE ENTITY'S SIGNIFICANT 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 will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton are described in Note I to the financial statements. As described in Note 1, the housing authority changed accounting policies related to financial reporting for debt disclosures by adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*, in 2019. We noted no transactions entered into by the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton during the year that were both significant and unusual, and of which, under professional standards, we are required to inform you, or transactions for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Accounting Estimates

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 estimate affecting the financial statements was management's estimate of depreciation expense. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop depreciation expense in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The disclosures in the notes to the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing 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.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS (cont.)

The following is a summary of material financial statement misstatements (audit adjustments):

	<u>Amount</u>
Record depreciation expense	\$ 118,443
Record capital asset additions	271,316
Record capital asset deletions	73,584
Record long-term debt	110,761
Record interest subsidies	67,182

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, 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.

CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' 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.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter. This letter follows this required communication.

INDEPENDENCE

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

Relating to our audit of the financial statements of the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton for the year ended December 31, 2019, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP hereby confirms that we are, in our professional judgment, independent with respect to the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton in accordance with the Code of Professional Conduct issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We provided no services to the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton other than audit services provided in connection with the audit of the current year's financial statements and the following nonaudit services which in our judgment do not impair our independence.

- > Financial statement preparation including the schedule of expenditures of federal awards
- > Adjusting journal entries
- > Data collection form preparation
- > Trial balance formatting from general ledger data

None of these nonaudit services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Governmental Auditing Standards*.

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 Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton'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 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.

RESTRICTION ON USE

This information is intended solely for the use of the governing body and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the information included in this letter and any other matters. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Madison, Wisconsin
April 28, 2020

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

April 28, 2020

Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP

Ten Terrace Court
P.O. Box 7398
Madison, WI 53707-7398

Dear Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP:

We are providing this letter in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton as of December 31, 2019 and for the year then ended for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 primary government and all component units 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, 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) All known audit and bookkeeping adjustments have been included in our financial statements, and we are in agreement with those adjustments.
- 9) We are not aware of any known actual, possible, pending, or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or which would affect federal or state award programs, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the housing authority 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 the housing authority 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 known related parties or related party relationships and transactions 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 housing authority 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) In regards to the nonattest services performed by you listed below, we have 1) accepted all management responsibility; 2) designated an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee the services; 3) evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed, and 4) accepted responsibility for the results of the services.

- a) Financial statement preparation
- b) Adjusting journal entries
- c) SEFA preparation
- d) Trial balance formatting from general ledger data
- e) Data collection form preparation

None of these nonattest services constitute an audit under generally accepted auditing standards, including *Government Auditing Standards*.

- 25) The Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton 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.
- 26) The Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statement in the event of noncompliance.
- 27) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
- 28) 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.
- 29) 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.
- 30) The Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton has no derivative financial instruments such as contracts that could be assigned to someone else or net settled, interest rate swaps, collars or caps.
- 31) 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.
- 32) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues and general revenues.
- 33) Deposits and investments are properly classified, valued, and disclosed (including risk disclosures, collateralization agreements, valuation methods, and key inputs, as applicable).
- 34) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated/amortized. Any known impairments have been recorded and disclosed.

- 35) We have appropriately disclosed the Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton'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.
- 36) 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.
- 37) 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.
- 38) Deposits and withdrawals to the reserve account have been made in accordance with agreements.
- 39) The calculation of excess funds is appropriate
- 40) Any direct borrowings, direct placements, lines of credit or debt default clauses have been identified and properly disclosed.
- 41) With respect to federal 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), including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA).
 - b) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the SEFA in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance and we believe the SEFA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance . The methods of measurement and presentation of the SEFA 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 SEFA.
 - c) If the SEFA is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFA no later than the date we issue the SEFA and the auditors' report thereon.

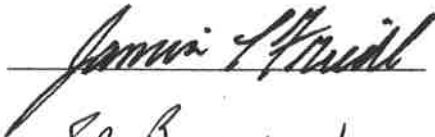
- d) We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to the Uniform Guidance and included in the SEFA, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of grants, federal cost reimbursement contracts, 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 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 program.
- f) We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal programs that provide reasonable assurance that we are administering our federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal 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 agencies or pass-through entities relevant to the programs and related activities.
- h) We have received no requests from a federal 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 relating to federal awards .
- j) We have disclosed any communications from grantors and pass-through entities disclosed to you results of our 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 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 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 program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- t) We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- u) 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 we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
- v) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by the Uniform Guidance.
- w) We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.

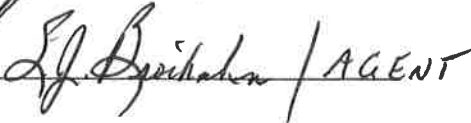
Sincerely,

Housing Authority of the City of Stoughton

Signed: _____



Signed: _____

 / AGENT