Post-Audit Review 14-04: City-Owned Parking

August 2015

City Auditor Stan Sewell, CPA, CGFM, CFE

> **Internal Auditor** Richard Walls, CPA, CIA



August 12, 2015

To: Mayor Andy Berke

City Council Members

Subject: Post-Audit Review of City-Owned Parking (Report #14-04)

Dear Mayor Berke and City Council Members:

Attached is a summary report on the status of audit recommendations in our 2014 City-Owned Parking report. The purpose of this report is to confirm whether, and to what degree, management has implemented the recommendations made in the original audit.

The original audit concluded:

- 1. There were instances of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the management agreement;
- 2. The required procurement process was not used;
- 3. Approval documentation was needed for additional parking lots; and,
- 4. Key improvement opportunities should be considered.

The audit had four recommendations; to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of the management agreement, to require the use of required procurement procedures, to obtain approval and maintain documentation for all significant asset transactions, and to consider certain improvement opportunities. At the time of this Post-Audit Review, one was partially implemented, and three were implemented. Recommendations partially implemented are herein reported to the Audit Committee for follow-up, as appropriate.

This Post-Audit Review consisted principally of inquiries of City personnel and examinations of various supporting documentation. It was substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The evidence obtained provided a reasonable basis for our conclusions; however, had an audit been performed, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you and our conclusions may have been modified.

Sincerely,

Stan Sewell, CPA, CGFM, CFE City Auditor

Attachment

cc: **Audit Committee**

Travis McDonough, Chief of Staff Brent Goldberg, Chief Operating Officer
Daisy Madison, Chief Financial Officer and CDRC Chair

Cary Bohannon, Director of General Services

RECOMMENDATION PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED (1)

Recommendation

- We recommended CDRC prepare a costbenefit analysis to determine if the following improvements would be beneficial:
 - Automated pay station system Chattanoogan Parking Garage
 - Pay-and-display or Pay-by-Space system – Surface Lot
 - Energy efficient lighting –
 Chattanoogan & River Pier Parking
 Garages
 - Monthly parking Surface Lot

Actions Taken

The procurement process has been initiated for automation of the Chattanoogan Garage and improvements to automation at the River Pier Garage. Also, the procurement process has been initiated for energy efficient lighting upgrades at the Chattanoogan and River Pier Garages. Both procurements require the approval of the Downtown Redevelopment Corporation (CDRC) Board of Directors.

Republic Parking has installed a pay-and-display system for the surface lot. However, monthly parking at the surface lot has not been instituted.

RECOMMENDATIONS FULLY IMPLEMENTED (3)

Recommendation

- 1 We recommended CDRC monitor the agreement to ensure compliance with all terms and conditions.
- We recommended CDRC follow required procurement procedures when procuring management services.

Actions Taken

The CDRC Board of Directors monitors the management agreement with assistance in daily oversight by the Finance and General Services Departments.

Subsequent to the audit report, CDRC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), and awarded the management agreement to Republic Parking effective May 30, 2015. As of December 20, 2012, the Chattanooga City Code was amended to allow this procurement method.

Recommendation

We recommended CDRC approve and document all significant asset transactions in their board minutes. City or CDRC officials should not take actions that have not been properly approved. If the use by CARTA was or is not the intent of the CDRC Board, we recommend CDRC include these properties in the RFP for management services currently being developed.

Actions Taken

The following significant asset transactions have been approved by CDRC. The agreement with CARTA was approved at CDRC's November 24, 2014 board meeting. Also during its November 24, 2014 meeting, the CDRC board authorized an amendment to the agreement with Urban Renaissance Group, LLC allowing them to exercise an option to purchase the surface lot during the next year.

City of Chattanooga Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline

Internal Audit's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline gives employees and citizens an avenue to report misconduct, waste or misuse of resources in any City facility or department.

Internal Audit contracts with a hotline vendor, The Network, to provide and maintain the reporting system. The third party system allows for anonymous reports. All reports are taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner. Reports to the hotline serve the public interest and assist the Office of Internal Audit in meeting high standards of public accountability.

To make a report, call 1-877-338-4452 or visit our website: www.chattanooga.gov/internal-audit