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June 12, 2007

To Mr. Charlie Harrison III, Chairman (GERS)
To Mr. Craig Storum, Chairman (PFRS)
To Mr. Ray Cochran, Chairman (General VEBA)
To Mr. Brian Lee, Chairman (Police and Fire VEBA)
To the City of Pontiac Retirement Board's
General Employees Retirement System
and Police and Fire Retirement System
47450 Woodward Ave
Pontiac, MI 48342

Dear Mr. Harrison, Mr. Storum, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. Lee:

We recently completed the audits of the General Employees Retirement System and the Police and Fire Retirement System (the "Systems"), as well as the related VEBAs, for the year ended December 31, 2006. We continue to be impressed with the organized and thorough manner in which Deborah Munson prepared for the audit. Her assistance in preparing the necessary schedules was greatly appreciated. As a result of the audit, we offer the following comments and recommendations for your consideration:

Retiree Health Care Benefits

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has released Statement Number 45, Accounting and Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions. The new pronouncement provides guidance for local units of government in recognizing the cost of retiree health care, as well as any "other" post employment benefits (other than pensions). The intent of the new rules is to recognize the cost of providing retiree health care coverage over the working life of the employee, rather than at the time the health care premiums are paid.

The new pronouncement will require the City to obtain a valuation of the obligation to provide retiree health care benefits, including an amortization of the past service cost over a period of up to 30 years. The valuation must include an annual recommended contribution (ARC). While the ARC does not need to be funded each year, any underfunding must be reported as a liability on the government-wide statement of net assets of the City.

The GASB statement has provided substantial incentive to fund the obligation in accordance with the annual recommended contribution. In addition to the normal fairness issue of paying for a service as you use it, the GASB has directed that lower rates of return be used for evaluating the annual recommended contribution in situations where the recommended contribution is not being funded. This will significantly increase the calculation of the following year's contribution. As a result, funding the contribution on a current basis should reduce the long-run cost. The accounting change will become effective for the City for the year ended June 30, 2009. GASB Statement Number 43, Financial Reporting for Post employment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans, is related to the VEBA plans themselves and will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2007. This statement impacts the reporting and disclosures made by the plan.

The City has established the two VEBAs to begin to pre-fund this liability. It is our understanding that the General VEBA was established to cover all current and retired general employees, other than hospital employees. However, the Police and Fire VEBA only covers persons retiring after August 22, 1996. As a result, there are significant numbers of employees (approximately 250) that are not currently being pre-funded through a VEBA.

Document Storage

As mentioned in the past, the Systems are responsible for keeping many important documents and records that often cannot be recreated (i.e., board minutes, member files, financial records, etc.). Given the very limited space allocated to the Systems' offices, it is difficult to provide adequate storage. It is imperative that the Systems maintain storage space that is not only well organized, but is also secure and fireproof. We recommend that the Systems review their current operating space and document storage facilities in an effort to improve conditions in order to ensure the safety of the related records. As a result of the current method of record keepings, during expenditure testing, there was a check copy that could not be located on the premises.

In the past, we have suggested looking into document imaging and understand the Systems have begun to research various options as they relate to different imaging systems. Document imaging would mitigate the need to retain paper files for extended periods. Documents would instead be scanned to create an electronic backup. Document imaging, while not necessarily a new technology, is being used increasingly as a means to provide a safe and effective back-up solution while maximizing space limitations.

We also continue to suggest that the Systems should consider various aspects of disaster recovery. If there were a fire or other catastrophe and the paper records and/or computer system were destroyed, the Systems should have a disaster recovery plan in place.

Bank Reconciliation Process

During our review of the bank reconciliation process, it was noted that one individual prepares the bank reconciliations with no documented review process by a separate individual. We recommend that the Systems' have an individual review the bank reconciliations after preparation, and document this review by signing and dating the reconciliations to enhance the controls in this area.



We would like to thank the Systems' staff for the excellent cooperation extended to us during the audit. We look forward to discussing our comments and recommendations with you have any questions or require assistance in the implementation of our recommendations, please call us at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

PLANTE & MORAN, PLLC

Beth A. Bialy

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