

CITY OF ARDEN HILLS
RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Special Purpose Audit Reports

Year Ended
December 31, 2024



Certified Public Accountants Business Consultants

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RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Special Purpose Audit Reports
Year Ended December 31, 2024

Table of Contents

	Page
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	1–2
Independent Auditor's Report on Minnesota Legal Compliance	3
Schedule of Findings and Responses	4

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the City Council and Management
City of Arden Hills, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Arden Hills, Minnesota (the City) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2025.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control.

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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the City's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section 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 have not been identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify one deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as finding 2024-001, which we consider to be a significant deficiency.

(continued)

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City's financial statements are free from 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 financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

CITY'S RESPONSE TO FINDING

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The City's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LB Carlson, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 19, 2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

To the City Council and Management
City of Arden Hills, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Arden Hills, Minnesota (the City) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2025.

MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the City failed to comply with the provisions of the contracting – bid laws, depositories of public funds and public investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, miscellaneous provisions, and tax increment financing sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Cities*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the City's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'LB Carlson, LLP'.

LB CARLSON, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 19, 2025

CITY OF ARDEN HILLS

Schedule of Findings and Responses
Year Ended December 31, 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY IN INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

2024-001 Segregation of Duties

Criteria – Internal control over financial reporting.

Condition – The City of Arden Hills, Minnesota (the City) has limited segregation of duties in a number of areas.

Questioned Costs – Not applicable.

Context – The condition applies to multiple areas.

Repeat Finding – This is a current year and prior year finding.

Cause – The limited segregation of duties is primarily caused by the limited size of the City's finance department staff.

Effect – One important element of internal accounting controls is an adequate segregation of duties such that no one individual should have responsibility to execute a transaction, have physical access to the related assets, and have responsibility or authority to record the transaction. A lack of segregation of duties subjects the City to a higher risk that errors or fraud could occur and not be detected in a timely manner in the normal course of business.

Recommendation – This condition is common to organizations of your size. We recommend that the City segregate duties as best it can within the limits of the staff available. Any modifications in internal control in this area should be viewed from a cost-benefit perspective.

Management Response – There is no disagreement with the audit finding. The City reviews and makes improvements to its internal control structure on an ongoing basis and attempts to maximize the segregation of duties in all areas within the limits of the staff available to eliminate or mitigate this internal control weakness. However, the City does not consider it cost-beneficial at this time to increase the size of its staff in order to further segregate accounting functions.