

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
and Constitutional Officers
Alachua County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Alachua County, Florida (the County) for the year ended September 30, 2022. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our original engagement letter to you dated September 11, 2018, and in our required communication letter dated January 4, 2023. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing accounting policies was not changed during 2022, except as follows:

- Implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*, during the year ended September 30, 2022, which established criteria for identifying and reporting leases. The implementation of this statement required non-cancelable leases with terms greater than one year to be reported as right-to-use assets and lease liabilities.

We noted no transactions entered into by the County 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 County's financial statements were:

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- Management's estimate of depreciation and accumulated depreciation, which is based on the useful lives determined by asset type.
- Management's estimate of the allowance for uncollectible accounts, which is based on historical trends and analysis of the collectability of individual accounts.
- Management's estimate related to the initial measurement of lease assets and liabilities, interest expense, lease term, present value of lease payments, and fair value of underlying assets is all based on terms in the agreements and the discount rate, based on the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*.
- Management's estimate of the other postemployment retirement benefits (OPEB) obligation is based on an actuarial valuation performed by a qualified actuary. These assumptions, if changed, could have a significant impact on the recorded amounts.
- The County's share of the net pension liability, pension-related deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and pension expense of the Florida Retirement System's Pension and Health Insurance Subsidy plans are estimated based on actuarial studies performed by a qualified actuary retained by the Florida Division of Retirement. The actuarial valuation is based upon actuarial methods and assumptions, which are selected based on risk and market factors affecting governmental entities of similar sizes, pension plan policies, and employee census information.
- Estimated Insurance Claims Payable - based on an informal calculation by the County's actuary.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosure affecting the financial statements was:

- The disclosure of net pension liabilities and OPEB in Note 9, which describes the retirement plans and OPEB plans, benefits provided, contributions, actuarial assumptions, and other information related to the Florida Retirement System, Health Insurance Subsidy pension plans, and the OPEB plan.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

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 clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. 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 as a whole.

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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 auditor's 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 May 31, 2023.

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 County'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 County's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention. We would like to draw your attention to the following matters:

■ **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

During fiscal year 2021/2022, the County disbursed \$10,607,612 under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), a federally funded housing subsidy program under the CARES Act. Although appropriate policies and controls were in place, which detected and prevented over one hundred incomplete or fraudulent requests for assistance, the County has identified \$47,893 of disbursements under the ERAP program which were not initially detected as potentially fraudulent, but subsequently determined to be so. In such instances, the County has refunded the CARES Act dollars to the grant program with County unrestricted funds. The County has notified law enforcement and is working with the County Attorney's office to recover funds disbursed under these applications.

■ **GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements***

GASB has issued GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, which will be effective for the year ending September 30, 2023. This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement: (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*, as amended.

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Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) (as described in the table of contents of the financial statements), which is 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 (as described in the table of contents of the financial statements), which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this 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.

We were not engaged to report on other information (introductory section and statistical section as described in the table of contents of the financial statements), which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

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



May 31, 2023
Gainesville, Florida