

June 30, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
**City of Princeton, Minnesota**

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of City of Princeton as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, 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, we considered City of Princeton'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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of City of Princeton's internal control over financial reporting.

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 significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control 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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, 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. A reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

- *Reasonably possible*. The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable*. The future event or events are likely to occur.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting 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 entity's internal control to be a significant deficiency:

### **Segregation of Duties**

We noted that due to the nature and size of the City, proper segregation of duties is not always maintained. Management should attempt to segregate duties that are incompatible from an internal control standpoint (e.g. cash receipts, preparation of deposits, depositing cash to bank, receiving bank statements, reconciling bank accounts, reviewing reconciliations, disbursing cash, etc.) whenever possible. This will prevent any single individual access to control the entire cash process and help reduce the risk of fraud or embezzlement.

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The identified deficiency in internal control listed above is not considered to be a material weakness.

The purpose of this communication, which is an integral part of our audit, is to describe for management and those charged with governance the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and the results of that testing. Accordingly, this communication is not intended to be and should not be used for any other purpose.

*Smith, Schafu and Associates, Ltd.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota