# CITY OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Independent Auditors' Reports Pursuant to Governmental Auditing Standards and The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996

For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS MANAGEMENT ADVISORS

## 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 City of Holyoke, Massachusetts

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2012, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 5, 2013. We conducted our audit 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.

## Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the City is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures 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 over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in items 12-1 and 12-2 in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs to be material weaknesses.

## Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 12-3.

The City's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the City's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, City Council, others within the entity, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Melanson, Heath + Company P. C. March 5, 2013



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS Management Advisors

## REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS THAT COULD HAVE A DIRECT AND MATERIAL EFFECT ON EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

To the City Council City of Holyoke, Massachusetts

## Compliance

We have audited the City of Holyoke, Massachusetts' compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2012. The City's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each of its major federal programs is the responsibility of the City's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the City's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the City's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the City's compliance with those requirements.

As described in items 12-4 through 12-7 in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, the City did not comply with certain requirements that are applicable to its National School Lunch Program, Highway Planning, and FEMA

Disaster grants. Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the City to comply with the requirements applicable to those programs.

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the preceding paragraph, the City complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2012.

## Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the City is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the City's internal control over compliance with the requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

## Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City as of and for the year ended June 30, 2012 and have issued

our report thereon dated March 5, 2013. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming our opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by OMB Circular A-133 and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, such information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The City's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the City's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, City Council, others within the entity, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Melanson, Heath + Company P. C. June 12, 2013

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# City of Holyoke, Massachusetts

# Schedule of Federal Expenditures of Federal Awards

## For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

Program Title	Federal CFDA <u>Number</u>		Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Agriculture Passed through State Department of			
Elementary and Secondary Education:			
School Breakfast	10.553	\$	583,042
National School Lunch Program	10.555		1,934,565
Summer Program	10.559	-	146,218
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			2,663,825
U.S. Department of Defense			
Air Force Junior ROTC Program	12.000		43,474
Total Department of Defense			43,474
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			
Community Development Block Grant	14.219		1,715,432
Economic Development Initiative	14.251		61,111
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing ARRA Program Passed through Commonwealth of Massachusetts	14.257		78,116
Department of Housing and Community Development HOME	14.239		692,844
Total Department of Housing and Urban Development	111200	-	2,547,503
U.S. Department of Criminal Justice			
	40.740		004 405
ARRA Cops Hiring Grant Justice Assistance Grant	16.710 16.735		301,485 7,808
ARRA Byrne JAG Grant	16.804		73,755
Total Department of Criminal Justice		•	383,048
U.S. Department of Labor Passed through Commonwealth Corporation			
Hampshire Training and Employment Consortium	47.050		470.070
Youth At Risk Summer Jobs	17.259	-	179,878
Total Department of Labor			179,878
U.S. Department of Transportation			
Passed through Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation			
Highway Planning and Construction ARRA	20.205		927,931
Total Department of the Interior		-	927,931
			(continued)

(continued)	Federal CFDA	Federal
Program Title	Number Number	Expenditures
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection		
Sewer Projects Brownfields Assessment Program Passed through Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust	66.606 66.818	782,163 6,331
Clean Water Grant - ARRA	66.458	735,596
Total Department of Environmental Protection		1,524,090
U.S. Department of Education  Passed through State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  ABE Federal Programs  Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.002 84.010	155,099 6,421,628
Special Education - Grants to States Circuit Breaker Supplemental Vocational Education - Basic Grants to States	84.027 84.027A 84.048	2,061,559 39,522 260,410
MA Family Literacy Support Drug Free Schools McKinney Homeless	84.162 84.186 84.196	3,057 3,858 21,330
Full Service Comm. School Pilot 21st Century Learning Centers Massgrad Initiative	84.215 84.287 84.360	72,894 449,266 123,639
LEP Support Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Streamlining Data Management Systems Title I School Improvement ARRA	84.362 84.367 84.372 84.388	231,745 576,225 1,387 711,386
Title I ARRA SPED ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) – Education State Grant	84.389 84.391 84.394	2,436,202 (3,987) 144,815
Race to the Top Education Jobs	84.395 84.410	778,302 3,349,629
Passed through Commonwealth of Massachusetts		
Department of Early Education and Care SPED Early Childhood ARRA Pre-K IDEA	84.173 84.392	53,189 103,564
Total U.S. Department of Education		17,994,719
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary		
Medical Reserve Corps Small Grant Program Passed through Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health	93.008	3,866
Personal Responsibility Education Program	93.092	29,218
Total Department of Health and Human Services		33,084 (continued)

(continued) <u>Program Title</u>	Federal CFDA <u>Number</u>	ļ	Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Homeland Security			
Disaster Grant Passed through Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency	97.036		2,514,428
Homeland Security Local Preparation	97.042	_	17,495
Total Department of Health and Human Services		_	2,531,923
Total Federal Expenditures		\$	28,829,475

This schedule has been prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. State identifying numbers were not available for the pass-through grants listed above. See Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance with OMB A-133.

# CITY OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

## **SECTION I - SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS**

<u>Financial Statements</u>	
Type of auditors' report issued:	Qualified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
<ul> <li>Material weaknesses identified?</li> </ul>	<u>√</u> yes no
Significant deficiencies identified?	yes <u>√</u> none reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	_ <b>✓</b> yes no
Federal Awards	
Internal control over major programs:	
<ul> <li>Material weaknesses identified?</li> </ul>	yes <u>√</u> no
Significant deficiencies identified?	yes _✓ none reported
Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs:	
Title I Cluster SPED Cluster Race to the Top Education Jobs National School Lunch Program Cluster Highway Planning FEMA Disaster Grant	Unqualified Unqualified Unqualified Unqualified Unqualified Qualified Qualified Qualified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 510(a) of Circular A-133?	_✓ yes no (continued)

## (continued)

Identification of major programs:

CFDA Number(s) Name of Federal Program of Clust	FDA Number(s)	er(s) Name of Federal Program or Cluster
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Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$864,884

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_✓\_ no

#### **SECTION II - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS**

#### Finding #

## Finding/Noncompliance

# 12-1 <u>Implement Regular Reconciliation Procedures for Key Accounts</u> (Material Weakness)

#### Prior Year Issue:

In the prior year, we recommended that the City continue the remediation procedures regarding the Treasurer's cash book currently underway and that the City continue the process of reconciling the tax lien and foreclosure accounts receivable balances by detailing out general and utility balances. In addition, we recommended that the Collector's Office retain supporting documentation at year-end for real, personal property, and motor vehicle excise tax receivables. Once these accounts have been reconciled within the Treasurer and Collector's Offices, any necessary adjustments can be proposed for the City's general ledger and a regular and meaningful reconciliation of general ledger balances to supporting detail can be implemented.

#### **Current Year Status:**

During the fiscal year 2012 audit, the Collector's office was able to provide detailed records; however, the tax title account still did not agree to the general ledger. The Treasurer's office has resolved most of the cash book variances, but it was unable to reconcile the Stabilization trust account to the cashbook.

#### Further Action Needed:

We continue to recommend that the City reconcile all cash and receivable accounts.

## City's Response:

The City Treasurer and Tax Collector are continuing the work to address the differences between their respective detailed parcel-based records and control records, including the general ledger. Due to the large amounts of data and limited available resources, an immediate resolution is not at hand. A target of sometime during fiscal year 2014 is projected.

## 12-2 <u>Improve Controls in the Tax Collector's Office (Material Weakness)</u>

#### Prior Year Issue:

In the prior year, we recommended that the City record and reconcile its parking ticket receivable balance as well as reconcile the many variances between the Collector's tax receivable control totals and the detailed "balance due" report totals.

#### **Current Year Status:**

These items have not been addressed in the current year.

#### Further Action Needed:

We continue to recommend that the City improve accounting and controls over parking tickets and other receivables in the Tax Collector's office.

## Finding #

## **Finding/Noncompliance**

## City's Response:

Policy and procedure regarding timely, accurate and consistent accounting of all parking ticket activity continues to be in the discussion stages. Also, conversion of all parking tickets information to a new internal recordings system is continuing. Many details still need to be addressed, but when work on these issues is completed, a parking tickets receivable balance and all related accounting will be recorded in the City's general ledger.

# 12-3 <u>Comply with Massachusetts General Laws – Number of Assessors</u> (Compliance Finding)

#### **Prior Year Issue:**

In the prior year, we recommended that the City either increase or decrease the number of Assessors on the Board to comply with Massachusetts General Laws.

#### **Current Year Status:**

The City currently has two members on the Board of Assessors. Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 24 requires that the Board of Assessors for a City consist of one, three, five, seven, or nine members.

## Further Action Needed:

We continue to recommend the City either increase or decrease the number of Assessors on the Board to comply with Massachusetts General Laws.

#### City's Response:

The City and the Commonwealth are aware of the Massachusetts law regarding the composition of the Board of Assessors. The City Council appoints the board members and has discussed on several occasions the appointment of a third voting member, the most recent discussion occurring in October, 2011. Further vetting by the City Council is necessary before any further action will be taken.

## **SECTION III - FEDERAL AWARDS FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**

Finding #	<u>Program</u>	Finding/Noncompliance	Questioned <u>Cost</u>
12-4	National School Lunch Program 10.555	Improve Verification Procedures (Compliance Finding)	N/A
	10.555	Criteria: By November 15 <sup>th</sup> of each school year, the School Lunch Program must verify the current free and reduced price eligibility of households selected from a sample of applications that it has approved for free and reduced price meals.	
		Condition: The School Lunch Program did not complete the verification process by November 15 <sup>th</sup> as required. The process was not completed until January.	
		Effect: The School Lunch Program does not have adequate procedures in place to ensure verification procedures are completed in a timely manner. No questioned costs are noted since this is a procedural issue.	
		Recommendation: We recommend that the School Lunch Program develop procedures to ensure compliance with federal verification require- ments.	
		Corrective Action Plan: The process was much improved in FY13. In FY13, the first verification letter was sent out on November 5 <sup>th</sup> , the second letter was sent out on November 16 <sup>th</sup> , and the process was completed on December 4 <sup>th</sup> . The food service department will work towards completing the process by November 15 <sup>th</sup> in FY14 and beyond.	
12-5	National School Lunch Program	Maintain Inventory of Federally Funded Equipment (Compliance Finding)	N/A
	10.555	<u>Criteria</u> : Federal regulations, as stipulated in OMB Circular A-102, "The Common Rule",	

#### Finding/Noncompliance

require that: (1) equipment be used in the program which acquired it or, when appropriate, other Federal programs: (2) equipment records shall be maintained; (3) a physical inventory of equipment shall be taken at least once every two years and be reconciled to the equipment records; (4) an appropriate control system shall be used to safeguard equipment; (5) equipment shall be adequately maintained. The requirements apply to equipment having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. The School Lunch Program is considered to be federally funded for this purpose. Consequently, all equipment purchased by the program is considered "federally funded equipment".

#### Condition:

The School Lunch Program does not prepare an inventory list of federally funded equipment. It also does not perform periodic physical inventories of equipment or monitor equipment for misappropriation.

#### Effect:

The School Department has not implemented inventory procedures to ensure compliance with federal requirements. There are no questioned costs associated with this finding since it does not involve ineligible costs.

#### Recommendation:

We recommend the School Lunch Program prepare a comprehensive inventory list of all federally funded equipment, identifying the equipment by purchase date, cost, serial number, source of Federal funding and location. We further recommend that a physical inventory be taken, at a minimum, every two years.

Implementation of these recommendations will ensure compliance with federal requirements as well as enhance the safeguarding of the School Department's assets.

Finding #	<u>Program</u>	Finding/Noncompliance	Questioned <u>Cost</u>
		Corrective Action Plan: The food service program is planning to complete the required inventory of all equipment used in the food service program in the summer of 2013. The inventory will be repeated every two years.	
12-6	National School Lunch Program	Comply with Eligibility Requirements (Compliance Finding)	N/A
10.555	Criteria: The City is authorized to award free or reduced meals to students whose family's income meet certain guidelines. However, the grant requires that the applications be maintained, and approved applications be consistent with the eligibility guidelines.		
		Condition: One of ten applications selected for testing indicated that the student was approved for reduced price meals; however, the student was receiving free meals.	
		Effect: The condition results in the City not being in compliance with the grant guidelines. As a result, the City is at risk for unallowable costs.	
		Recommendation: We recommend the City implement policies and procedures designed to ensure full compliance with federal eligibility regulations. Specific steps with the policies and procedures should address the review and approval process of applications.	
		Corrective Action Plan: We have changed software programs from Format to NutriKids. In FY12, Format was being used, and there were software glitches that may have caused the system to incorrectly record the student as eligible for free lunch. An example given was that the system would sometimes double count family members, resulting in a larger than actual family size, and then identify the	

Finding #	<u>Program</u>	Finding/Noncompliance	Questioned <u>Cost</u>
		student as being eligible for free rather than reduced lunch. The NutriKids software program appears to be much more reliable, and we do not anticipate such errors to reoccur.	
12-7	Highway Planning 20.205	Improve Record Retention Procedures (Compliance Finding)	N/A
	FEMA Disaster 97.036	Criteria: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires recipients of public assistance grants to retain documentation to support all claims and requests for emergency assistance reimbursement.	
		Condition:  A contractor was hired by the City to prepare the documentation required for FEMA and Highway grant reimbursement; however, FEMA representatives decided to use the information provided by the contractor to prepare the final submission themselves. As a result, FEMA personnel compiled the information needed but apparently did not provide the City with clear supporting documentation. Consequently, the City was unable to provide a clear summary of specific expenses to support all claims submitted. Costs were allocated between the highway and FEMA grants; however we were unable to determine how they were allocated. Amounts requested appear to be for allowable charges; however, they do not agree to the accounting records and there are additional charges in the accounting records that were not included on any of the requests.	
		Effect: Federal record retention requirements were not met. No questioned costs are raised because the City was required to submit supporting documentation to FEMA as a condition of the grant reimbursement	

process.

## Recommendation:

We recommend that in the future, for each request for reimbursement, the City retain a master list of all vendor and payroll expenses, and a copy of actual invoices and payroll registers. This will result in compliance with the Federal documentation requirements to support all claims.

## **Corrective Action Plan:**

For all future FEMA public assistance grants, prior to the submission of the final grant application, the City will require copies of all pertinent supporting documentation be provided for the application FEMA formally submits.

## **SECTION IV - SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS**

Finding # 11-4	Program Title I Cluster 84.010/84.389	Finding/Noncompliance  Assure Timely Submission of Federal Grant Reports (Compliance Finding)
	SPED Cluster 84.027/84.173	This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.
	Teacher Quality 84.367	
11-5	Title I Cluster 84.010/84.389	Maintain Employee's Time and Effort Records (Compliance Finding)
	Teacher Quality 84.367	This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.
11-6	National School Lunch Program 10.555	Improve Controls Over Program Income (Compliance Finding / Material Weakness)
		This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.
11-7	National School Lunch Program 10.555	Improve Verification Procedures (Compliance Finding)  This issue has not been resolved and is repeated as current year finding 12-4.
11-8	National School Lunch Program 10.555	Maintain Inventory of Federally Funded Equipment (Compliance Finding)
		This issue has not been resolved and is repeated as current year finding 12-5.
11-9	National School Lunch Program 10.555	Ensure Accuracy of Claims Submitted (Compliance Finding / Significant Deficiency)
		This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.
11-10	Title I ARRA 84.389	<u>Limit Cash on Hand to Immediate Need (Compliance Finding / Significant Deficiency)</u>
		This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.