

Observations for Consideration in Planning the FY 2026 Financial Statement Audit of the City of Cincinnati.

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From: Todd Zinser (toddzinser@yahoo.com)

To: jpritchard@cshco.com

Cc: steve.webb@cincinnati-oh.gov

Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 09:56 PM EDT

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Dear Mr. Pritchard,

Your office informed me that you are the Manager of your firm's engagement with the City of Cincinnati for the audit of the City's financial statements.

Attached please find a memorandum containing observations concerning the City's internal control environment, governance processes and oversight mechanisms.

The overall observation is that the City's control environment appears to be increasingly complex and fragmented, particularly with respect to the City's spending.

Our observations are organized into seven categories:

1. Lack of Oversight of External Funding
2. Railroad Money
3. Council-Directed Funding and Earmarks
4. Internal Audit Independence and Municipal Code Compliance
5. Procurement Controls and Moral Obligations
6. Governance and Conflict-of-Interest Controls
7. Contract Administration and Monitoring

Attached to the memorandum are 18 exhibits supporting our observations.

The Cincinnati Oversight Project is a 501(C)(4) non-profit organization established in January 2026 to promote transparency and accountability in Cincinnati government through citizen-based oversight. Although recently established, our observations are based on many years of civic engagement with the City.

We are hopeful that you and your audit team find our observations useful. We would be happy to discuss our observations with you or answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Todd Zinser