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August 12, 2024

Honorable County Executive and Members of the County Legislature
County of Chautauqua, New York:

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the County of Chautauqua, New York (the “County”) 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 of America, we considered the County’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 the County’s internal control over financial reporting.

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 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 below:

- *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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

During our audit we identified certain future reporting requirements that are presented for your consideration. This letter does not affect our report dated December 31, 2023 on the financial statements of the County. We will review the status of these comments during our next audit engagement. Our comments and recommendations, all of which have been discussed with the appropriate members of management, are intended to improve the internal control or result in other operating efficiencies. Our comments are summarized in Exhibit I.

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 and the results of that testing. Accordingly, this communication is not intended to be and should not be used for any other purpose.

Drescher & Malecki LLP

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Grant Reimbursements

During testing of a grant program, we noted that the County had significant delays between when expenditures related to grants were incurred and when reimbursement was submitted to the granting agency. Further, it was noted that receivables related to the programs required adjustment as a result of adjustments made by the granting agency.

We recommend that the County attempt to minimize the time elapsed between incurring grant-related expenditures and submitting grant reimbursements.

Future Reporting Requirements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) has adopted new pronouncements, which may have a future impact upon the County. These should be evaluated to determine the extent the County will be impacted in future years.

GASB Statement No. 99—The County is required to implement the remainder of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees.

GASB Statement No. 100—The County is required to implement GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections.

GASB Statement No. 101—The County is required to implement GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to the recognition and measurement for compensated absences.

GASB Statement No. 102—The County is required to implement GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by providing users of financial statements with essential information that currently is not often provided. The disclosures will provide users with timely information regarding certain concentrations or constraints and related events that have occurred or have begun to occur that make a government vulnerable to a substantial impact. As a result, users will have better information with which to understand and anticipate certain risks to a government’s financial condition.

GASB Statement No. 103—The County is required to implement GASB Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026. The objective of this statement is to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government’s accountability. This Statement also addresses certain application issues.