

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

2011 SEP 29 PM 2: 06 METROPOLITAN AUDIT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

**PURPOSE
METROPOLITAN
CLERK**

The Metropolitan Audit Committee is to ensure that the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro Nashville) has effective, efficient, and sustainable internal controls over its major risks.

SCOPE

The Metropolitan Audit Committee (Committee) is authorized to conduct financial audits, performance audits or other audit services, including disposition of fraud incidents, concerning any department, board, commission, officer or agency of the Metropolitan Government. Departments, boards, commissions, officers and agencies of the Metropolitan Government means those entities which encompass all of the governmental and corporate functions previously performed by Davidson County and the City of Nashville existing at the formation of the Metropolitan Government, and any public entity whose existence is created or authorized by the Metropolitan Charter or the Metropolitan County Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Financial Statements

- Review the results of audits, including any difficulties encountered, and follow up as appropriate.
- Review with Metro Nashville management and the external auditors all matters requiring communication to the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards.

Risk Management and Internal Control

- Understand the scope of internal and external auditors' reviews of internal controls over financial reporting and government service activities, and obtain reports on significant observations and recommendations, together with department, board, commission, officer or agency management's responses.
- Engage with Metropolitan Auditor in performing a Metro Nashville entity-wide risk assessment to form an audit work plan.
- Meet with auditee after issuance of audit report by Metropolitan Auditor to discuss observations. Hold follow-up to monitor corrective actions implemented by auditee.

Internal Audit

- Review and approve the audit plan and all major changes to the plan.
- Review and approve the Division of Metropolitan Audit Bylaws annually.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
METROPOLITAN AUDIT COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

- Assure continued independence of Metropolitan Auditor. Ensure there are no unjustified restrictions or limitations to the discharge of internal audit responsibilities.
- Review annually the activities, staffing and organizational structure of the internal audit function.
- Review the effectiveness of the internal audit function, including compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards.
- Recommend the appointment of the Metropolitan Auditor.
- For cause remove the Metropolitan Auditor.
- At least once per year, review the performance of the Metropolitan Auditor and concur with the annual compensation and salary adjustment.

Reporting Responsibilities

- Issue annual report to the Council and Mayor regarding Committee activities, issues and related recommendations.
- Provide an open avenue of communication between internal audit, the external auditors, and department, board, commission, officer or agency management.
- Review any other Government issued reports related to committee responsibilities.

Other Responsibilities

- Ensure committee members undergo appropriate orientation upon appointment.
- Review and assess the adequacy of the committee bylaws annually, requesting approval for proposed changes, and ensuring appropriate disclosure as may be required by law or regulation.
- Confirm annually that all responsibilities outlined in these bylaws have been carried out.

COMPOSITION

The composition and selection of committee members will follow the provisions provided in Metropolitan Code of Law, Section 2.24.300(E) Division of Metropolitan Audit.

MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at least once per quarter, with authority to convene additional meetings, as circumstances require. The Committee will invite members of department, board, commission, officer or agency management, auditors or others to attend meetings and provide pertinent

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
METROPOLITAN AUDIT COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

information as necessary. Meeting agendas along with appropriate briefing materials will be prepared and provided in advance to members by the Metropolitan Auditor. Minutes will be prepared by the Metropolitan Auditor.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN AUDIT BYLAWS**

PURPOSE

The Division of Metropolitan Audit, commonly referred to as the Metropolitan Office of Internal Audit, is an independent appraisal agency established to ensure and enhance the integrity, equality, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of service activities, and to pursue an atmosphere of honesty and mutual trust within the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro Nashville.)

SCOPE

The Metropolitan Auditor is authorized to conduct financial audits, performance audits or other audit services, including disposition of fraud incidents, concerning any department, board, commission, officer or agency of the Metropolitan Government. Departments, boards, commissions, officers and agencies of the Metropolitan Government means those entities which encompass all of the governmental and corporate functions previously performed by Davidson County and the City of Nashville existing at the formation of the Metropolitan Government, and any public entity whose existence is created or authorized by the Metropolitan Charter or the Metropolitan County Council.

The Metropolitan Auditor shall conduct financial, performance, or other audit services in order to independently and objectively determine whether:

- Risks, including safety, environment, fiscal, information technology and fraud, are appropriately identified and managed
- Programs, plans and objectives are achieved
- Significant financial, managerial and operating information is accurate, reliable and timely
- Activities and programs are being conducted in compliance with policies, standards, procedures and applicable local, state and federal laws or regulations
- Resources are acquired economically, used efficiently and protected adequately
- Quality and continuous improvement are fostered in Metro Nashville's control environment
- Interaction with the various governance groups occurs as needed
- External auditors' proposed audit scope and approach supplement internal audit efforts
- Activities indicate fraud, abuse or illegal acts which need further investigation
- Computer-based systems incorporate adequate controls

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN AUDIT BYLAWS**

The Metropolitan Auditor shall have authority to:

- Review the effectiveness of internal controls for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations
- Review the observations of any examinations by regulatory agencies, and any auditor observation
- Review the process for communicating the code of conduct to Government personnel
- Obtain regular updates from department, board, commission, officer or agency management regarding compliance matters

The Metropolitan Auditor shall have authority to accept requests from management to perform special administrative reviews, special projects, and advisory services.

AUDIT SCHEDULE

At the beginning of each calendar year, the Metropolitan Auditor shall submit a twelve month audit schedule to the Metropolitan Audit Committee for review and approval. The schedule shall include the proposed plan for auditing departments, boards, commissions, officers, agencies, activities, systems, processes and subcontractors for the subsequent twelve months. This schedule may be amended during the period after review with the Metropolitan Audit Committee. Additionally, the Metropolitan Auditor may independently initiate and conduct any other audit deemed necessary with subsequent approval by the Metropolitan Audit Committee.

The schedule will ensure audit activities have been directed toward the highest exposure to risk and toward increasing efficiency, economy and effectiveness of programs. In the selection of audit areas and audit objectives, the determination of audit scope and the timing of audit work, the auditor will consult, as needed, with federal and state auditors, external auditors and other Metro Nashville monitoring functions so that the desirable audit coverage is provided and audit effort is properly coordinated.

REPORT OF IRREGULARITIES

If, during an audit, the auditor becomes aware of fraud, abuse or illegal acts, the Metropolitan Auditor shall report the irregularities to the Metropolitan Audit Committee, the Department of Law, the Mayor and the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. If it appears that the irregularity is criminal in nature, the auditor shall notify the appropriate authority in addition to those officials previously cited.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN AUDIT BYLAWS**

ACCESS TO EMPLOYEES, RECORDS AND PROPERTY

The Division of Metropolitan Audit is authorized to have full, complete, and unrestricted access to all information (including automated data), physical properties, and personnel required to conduct a thorough and complete examination of the subject under review. Employees should cooperate with auditors and provide all information pertinent to the audit. The auditor shall not publicly disclose any information received during an audit that is considered proprietary (confidential) in nature by any local, state or federal law or regulation.

AGENCY RESPONSE

A final draft of the audit report will be forwarded to the audited department, board, commission, officer or agency director or his/her designee for review and comment regarding factual content before it is released to the Metropolitan Audit Committee. The audit entity must respond in writing, and specify agreement with audit observations and recommendations or reasons for disagreement with observations and/or recommendations, plans for implementing solutions to issues identified, and a timetable to complete such activities. The response must be forwarded to the Metropolitan Auditor within fifteen business days. The Metropolitan Auditor will include the response in the report. If no response is received, the Metropolitan Auditor will note that fact in the transmittal letter and will release the audit report. Any subsequent responses shall be distributed to those who received the audit report.

AUDIT FOLLOW-UP

The Metropolitan Auditor shall follow-up on audit recommendations as practicable to determine whether corrective action has been implemented. The Metropolitan Auditor may request periodic status reports from audited entities regarding actions taken to address reported audit concerns and recommendations.

REPORTS TO METROPOLITAN AUDIT COMMITTEE

Each audit will result in a written report containing relevant background information and observations and recommendations, and shall communicate results to the Metropolitan Audit Committee, the Mayor and the audited department, board, commission, officer or agency. Subject to applicable local, state or federal laws, the report shall also be available for public examination.

The Metropolitan Auditor shall submit each audit report to the Metropolitan Audit Committee and shall retain a copy as a permanent record. A copy will be posted on the Division's internet site.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN AUDIT BYLAWS**

ANNUAL REPORT

The Metropolitan Auditor shall submit an annual report to the Metropolitan Audit Committee, during the fourth quarter of each year, indicating audits completed, major concerns, corrective actions taken, and significant observations that have not been fully addressed by audited department, board, commission, officer or agency management. Additionally, the report will indicate whether there are any unwarranted restrictions on the staffing of the internal audit activity or on access by internal auditors to all organization activities, records, property and personnel.

CONTRACT AUDITORS, CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS

Within budget limitations, the Metropolitan Auditor may obtain the services of qualified financial or management consultants, or other professional experts necessary to perform the Metropolitan Auditor's duties. An audit that is performed by contract must be conducted by persons who have no financial interests in the affairs of the entity under review. The Metropolitan Auditor will coordinate and monitor auditing performed by public accounting or other organizations employed under contract by the Division of Metropolitan Audit.

INDEPENDENCE

To provide for the independence of the Division of Metropolitan Audit, its personnel report to the Metropolitan Auditor, who reports administratively and functionally to the Metropolitan Audit Committee as established in the Metropolitan Code of Law, Section 2.24.300 Division of Metropolitan Audit.

In all matters relating to audit work, the Division of Metropolitan Audit and the audit staff should be free from personal, external and organizational impairments to independence and must avoid the appearance of such impairments of independence. The Metropolitan Auditor and audit staff have neither direct authority over, nor responsibility for, any of the activities reviewed.

STANDARDS OF AUDIT PRACTICE

The Metropolitan Auditor shall conduct work in accordance with Government Auditing Standards established by the United States Government Accountability Office.

**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY
DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN AUDIT BYLAWS**

FUNDING

The Division of Metropolitan Audit shall submit budget proposals, in accordance with procedures established by the Metropolitan Director of Finance that are sufficient to carry out the responsibilities and functions established in the Metropolitan Code of Law, Section 2.24.300 Division of Metropolitan Audit.

RECORDS

The Metropolitan Auditor shall retain for ten years (or longer if so directed by statute or ordinance), a complete file of each audit report and each report of other examinations, surveys and reviews made under legislative authority. The file should include audit working papers and other supportive material directly pertaining to the audit report.

REASSESSMENT

The Division of Metropolitan Audit Bylaws will be reviewed and reassessed annually by the Metropolitan Audit Committee.