

DRAFT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARD (MARB)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hartford Subcommittee of the MARB

Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, January 23, 2025, 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: This was a virtual meeting. Meeting materials may be accessed at the following website:
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Marb/Hartford-Committee-Meetings-and-Materials>

Call-In Instructions: Meeting participants may use the following telephone number and access code:

Telephone Number: (860) 840-2075

Meeting ID: 599 474 528

Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kennison (OPM Secretary designee), Kevin Alvarez (Treasurer's Designee), Lisa Hammersley, and Robert White (joined at 10:35AM).

City Officials in Attendance: Julian Freund, Paul Foster, Caitlin Richard, Trahn-Tra Phan, and Leigh Ann Ralls.

OPM Staff in Attendance: John Mehr, Simon Jiang, and Lori McLoughlin.

Clifton Larsen and Allen Staff in Attendance: Leslie Zoll (Principal) and Grace Musitwa (Director).

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM. Ms. Kennison is chairing this meeting on behalf of Secretary Beckham. Ms. Kennison wished everyone a Happy New Year and then asked Mr. Foster to introduce the new Hartford Public Schools Chief Financial Officer, Caitlin Richard, who began in December.

II. Approval of Minutes:

a. May 2, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Minutes will be approved at the next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

III. Presentation: City of Hartford FY2024 Audit Reports

Ms. Ralls provided a brief overview on the preparation of the FY2024 Financial Annual Audit reports. She expressed her thanks to CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP (CLA) for the teamwork and completing the audit on time.

Ms. Zoll provided an overview of the City's FY2024 financial audit. She said CLA audit scope includes expressing opinions on whether the basic financial statements are presented in accordance with government accounting principles. The Financial Statements, the Federal Single, and the State Single Audit opinion is unmodified. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses relating to internal controls. The Federal and State single audits programs that CLA tested had no findings or

deficiencies to report. It was noted that CLA does not opine on internal controls, however CLA provides a report on internal controls as it relates to the State and Federal programs tested each year. CLA had no disagreements with management, no difficulties performing the audit, and no independence issues.

Ms. Zoll pointed out the City's financial highlights as the General Fund balance had increased from \$59.3 million to \$73.4 million, budgetary expenditures were \$11.0 million less than budgeted, and budgetary revenues were \$19.1 million greater than the budgeted amount. Tax collections were at 95.2% compared to 95.1% from the previous year.

Ms. Musiitwa reviewed the financials for the Federal Single Audit and State Single Audit. The City spent Federal awards totaling \$218.7 million and \$508.1 million in State awards.

Ms. Musiitwa provided a summary of the information that was included in the Governance Communication letter that was sent to those in charged with governance. She also reviewed four (4) new GASB that will be implemented over the next few years.

IV. Other Related Business

Ms. Kennison requested an update on the negotiation status of the City and the Board of Education (BOE) labor contracts. Mr. Foster shared that the BOE is bargaining with three unions: the Paraeducators, the Security Guards, and the Secretaries. Multiple negotiation sessions are scheduled with all three unions over the next month. They are optimistic that two contracts might be brought to the March meeting. Mr. Freund shared that two labor contracts, the Firefighters Union and Local 1716 that consists of Public Works employees expired on December 31, 2024. Both labor contracts are in active negotiation with no estimate when they will be resolved.

The next MARB Hartford Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2025, and will focus on the City's Proposed FY26 Budgets and the 5-Year Plan.

V. Adjourn

Ms. Kennison made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Alvarez. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.