

## **CITY GETS CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH**

New auditors hired by the City Council have given the City's financial management a "clean bill of health." In a report filed with the Council, the audit firm of Powers & Sullivan found no material weaknesses in the management of City accounts. An audit citing no material weakness is the ultimate goal of an entity being audited.

"The opinion in this audit and the many confirmations by municipal experts as to the professionalism, integrity and success of our City government continues to be welcome news and an important reward for the emphasis we place on open, honest and transparent government," boasted City Council President Leo Robinson.

"Our residents need to know that we run a professional shop, just like investors in the City's bonds or in local real estate need to know that we're running an operation that's worthy of their financial backing. This audit confirms all of that as well."

Robinson said the City Council brought on new auditors this past year to get a "new set of eyes to review our books." Auditors examine the City's revenue and expenditure statements, seeking inaccuracies or misstatements for the most recently concluded budget year, FY'09, which ended on June 30, 2009. Auditors also assess the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the reporting of all necessary information. City Manager Jay Ash said the City passed each test "with flying colors."

"We've developed and adhere to a core set of principles which includes taking seriously our responsibility to manage and appropriately report on the City's finances," Manager Ash stressed. "I'm pleased those principles are again paying great dividends."

Despite the negative finance environment that threatens municipal budgets around the country, Chelsea's bond rating was recently reaffirmed at "A+" by Standard & Poor's, the Wall Street company which rates public and private institutions around the world.

"Yes, time are tough, but we've position ourselves to not only survive, but to grow," said Robinson. "This audit report and our strong bond rating indicate that we are managing taxpayer funds responsibly. That's an important start to all we are trying to accomplish on providing services in an effective and efficient as a way to continue rejuvenating our community."

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