

Board of Trustees and Management of Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program Baltimore, Maryland

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program (the Program) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Program'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 Program's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Program's internal control.

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, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

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. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to fraud or error may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, Board of Trustees, and others within the Program, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Clifton Larson Allen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland May 13, 2022





Board of Trustees Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program Baltimore, Maryland

We have audited the financial statements of the Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program (the Program) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated May 13, 2022. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our engagement letter dated January 7, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

# Significant audit findings or issues

# Qualitative aspects of accounting practices

# Accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program are described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2021.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

## Accounting estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no accounting estimates affecting the financial statements which were particularly sensitive or required substantial judgments by management

## Financial statement disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

## Significant unusual transactions

We identified no significant unusual transactions.

# Difficulties encountered in performing the audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.



### Uncorrected misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

### Corrected misstatements

The following immaterial misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

 To accrue expenses that were incurred as of December 31, 2021, not yet paid, in the amount of \$16,637

## Disagreements with management

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

## Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report

As previously communicated to you, the financial statements present only the Program, and do not purport to, and do not, present the net position or activity of the state of Maryland.

# Management representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the attached management representation letter dated May 13, 2022.

## Management consultations with other independent accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the entity's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

## Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the entity's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

#### Other audit findings or issues

We have provided a separate communication to you dated May 13, 2022, communicating internal control related matters identified during the audit.

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This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees and management of Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Clifton Larson Allen LLP

Baltimore, Maryland May 13, 2022 May 13, 2022

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP 1966 Greenspring Drive Timonium, Maryland 21093

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program (the Program), which comprise the respective financial position of the business-type activities as of December 31, 2021 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flowsor the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to misstatements that are material. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of May 13, 2022, the following representations made to you during your audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021.

#### **Financial Statements**

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated January 7, 2022, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The financial statements include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 2. We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- 3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- 4. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates are reasonable.
- 5. Significant estimates have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP. Significant estimates are estimates at the financial statement date that could change materially within the next year.

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- 6. Related party relationships and transactions, including, but not limited to, revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP
- 7. All events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- 8. You have proposed adjusting journal entries that have been posted to the entity's accounts. We have reviewed and approved those adjusting journal entries and understand the nature of the changes and their impact on the financial statements. We are in agreement with those adjustments and accept responsibility for them.
- 9. We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.
- 10. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
- 11. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 12. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the financial statement date and have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
- 13. We have analyzed all lease contracts and have considered and recorded material embedded leases contained within other contracts in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 14. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 15. Capital assets have been evaluated for impairment as a result of significant and unexpected decline in service utility. Impairment loss and insurance recoveries have been properly recorded.

## **Information Provided**

- 1. We have provided you with:
  - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records (including information obtained from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), documentation, and other matters.
  - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

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- d. Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- 3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 4. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
  - a. Management;
  - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - c. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 5. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others.
- 6. We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 7. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments, or unasserted claims or assessments, that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
- 8. There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 9. We have disclosed to you the identity of all the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including any side agreements.
- 10. The entity has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral, except as made known to you and disclosed in the financial statements.
- 11. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.

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- 12. There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
- 13. The entity has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 14. We have complied with all restrictions on resources and all aspects of contractual and grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance. This includes complying with donor requirements to maintain a specific asset composition necessary to satisfy their restrictions.
- 15. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
- 16. The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures, jointly governed organizations, and other related organizations.
- 17. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
- 18. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and equity amounts are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 19. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
- 20. Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly valued and disclosed.
- 21. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
- 22. As part of your audit, you prepared the draft financial statements and related notes. We have designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee your services; have made all management judgments and decisions; and have assumed all management responsibilities. We have evaluated the adequacy and results of the service. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes. We have also ensured that the entity's data and records are complete and received sufficient information to oversee the service.
- 23. The Program still remains in start-up phase and the Trust has not yet been established as of the date of this letter. It is anticipated this will occur later in 2022.

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Signature: Docusigned by:  Signature: Simmons  10D707D0270F419	Title: Acting Executive Director
Signature:	Title: