



## Engagement Letter

August 2, 2021

The Honorable Sara Countryman, Mayor  
City of Montgomery  
101 Old Plantersville Road  
Montgomery, TX 77356-0708

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the City of Montgomery (the "City") for the years ended September 30, 2021 and 2022.

### Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, the aggregate remaining fund information, and the disclosures, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the City as of and for the years ended September 30, 2021 and 2022.

The component unit will be audited as part of the audit of the financial statements of the City as noted below:

1. Montgomery Economic Development Corporation: Discretely Presented, No Separate Financial Statements

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) provide for certain Required Supplementary Information (RSI), such as Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), to supplement the City's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the City's RSI in accordance with GAAS. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Budgetary Comparison Schedule(s)
3. Pension Schedule(s) as applicable

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the City's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS, and we will provide

an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole in a report combined with our auditors' report on the financial statements:

1. Combining Statement(s) and Schedule(s)
2. Budgetary Comparison Schedule(s)

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with GAAP; and report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the second paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions.

#### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and will include tests of your accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an avoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements, or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the government's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry.

#### **Audit Procedures-Internal Control**

We will obtain an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to

error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards.

### **Audit Procedures-Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements of the City in conformity with GAAP based on information provided by you.

We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statements services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

### **Nonaudit Services**

In connection with the engagement, we will perform services unrelated to our attest function. The additional services we will provide include:

1. **Preparation of Documents**  
We will assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the City in conformity with GAAP based on information provided by the City.
2. **Advisory Services**  
We will provide routine advisory services through phone calls, conferences, or otherwise, in connection with incidental matters arising during the year. We encourage open lines of communication throughout the year as part of our services.
3. **Correspondence**  
We will handle all normal correspondence from grantor, regulatory, or oversight agencies related to the audit.
4. **Professional Proofing**  
To ensure documents issued in connection with the audit engagement are professional in appearance, we will submit both client-prepared information, as well as documents created entirely by the auditor, to an independent professional proofreader for a cover-to-cover inspection. This review will include consistent formatting, grammar, logic, and any other items that may detract from the document. This process is over and above technical reviews performed.
5. **Printing and Binding**  
All final hard copy documents will be printed on a 1200 dpi or better resolution copier and bright white report paper. Reports will be bound with GBC-brand plastic combs with 30 mil oversized covers. We will manually inspect each page from one document and spot check remaining reports for printing errors. Our reports will be centered, properly aligned, and free of smudges and other detracting elements.
6. **Electronic Adobe Searchable PDF**  
In addition to providing hard copy documents, we will also provide all final documents in electronic image files in Adobe PDF format, suitable for posting in electronic agenda packages, posting on websites, or transmitting by email to regulatory agencies.

**7. Client Portal - Auditbox**

We will provide the City access to our proprietary AuditBox online site to provide a central repository where both the City's personnel and audit team members can see documents being exchanged during the process to eliminate duplicate requests from audit team members. Both the City's documents, as well as final audit documents, will be hosted on the site providing an archive of information that new personnel may access in subsequent years, if information is needed regarding what was provided for a prior year audit or a copy of audit documents issued.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal controls, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with GAAP.

Management is also responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information, on which we have been engaged to report, in conformity with GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (2) you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for financial statements preparation services and any other nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

**Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

Fees for our services are based on the actual time spent at our standard hourly rates, plus travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Items that likely will increase the fee estimate include:

1. Assistance with addressing matters that were designated as management responsibility, which include closing schedules and closing entries.
2. Submission of audit data within 60 days of a client requested completion date or filing deadline, requiring overtime hours to meet the deadline.
3. Changes to accounting pronouncements, professional standards, laws, and regulations not known to us as of the date of this letter that have a significant impact on time requirements.
4. Changes in the operations and significant matters that materially change the audit scope such as evaluation of the impact of joint ventures, debt issuance/refunding/advance extinguishment, forbearance agreements, notice of material events, enforcement actions, required corrective actions, self-insurance, environmental liabilities, going concern, and/or other postemployment benefits.
5. Significant increases in State or Federal funding requiring State and/or Federal Single Audits and/or increases to the number of grants classified as major programs by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) or state requirements.
6. Follow up on allegations or discovery of a) noncompliance with laws, regulations, and policies; b) fraud, waste, and abuse; c) significant deficiencies in internal control; d) nepotism; and e) related party transactions.

As customary in the industry, the price quoted is an estimate. In accordance with rules of the State Board of Public Accountancy, we cannot be bound to provide the audit for the amount estimated. However, in practice, we honor our fee quotes unless adverse conditions such as those described above are encountered.

### Fee Estimates

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Financial Statement Audit	\$ 22,995	\$ 23,625

The proposed fee does not include any additional time related to COVID-19. The impact of COVID-19 is presently unknown and may result in additional compliance procedures, funding, or organizational problems, which may require additional time to address. Any additional time would be billed at our standard hourly rates.

### Non-Single Audit Engagement

A federal single audit is required by the OMB's Uniform Guidance when federal funds over \$750,000 are expended. Federal single audit fees vary based on the number of major programs as defined by OMB. The additional technical verbiage that is necessary when a federal single audit is required is not included within this engagement letter, nor does the proposed engagement fee include additional fees related to a federal single audit.

A state single audit is required when grant funds that originated from the State of Texas (this does not include federal monies passed through the State) over \$750,000 are expended. State single audit fees vary based on the number of major programs as defined by the *State of Texas Single Audit Circular*. The additional technical verbiage that is necessary when a state single audit is required is not included within this engagement letter, nor does the proposed engagement fee include additional fees related to a state single audit.

Should you exceed the federal and/or state single audit thresholds, a new engagement letter will be required.

### **Billing Protocol**

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. Generally, 40 percent will be billed and payable upon completion of interim audit procedures (normally one to four months before year end) and 60 percent after a draft of the financial statements is issued. Accordingly, the fee will be split 40/60 between budget years. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the City's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to those charged with governance of the City. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of the audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions or add an emphasis of matter or other matter paragraph to our auditors' report or, if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or withdraw from the engagement.

### **Foreign Terrorists Organizations**

Pursuant to Chapter 2252, Texas Government Code, we represent and certify that, at the time of execution of this letter, neither we nor any wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company, or affiliate of the same (i) engages in business with Iran, Sudan, or any foreign terrorist organization as described in Chapters 806 or 807 of the Texas Government Code or Subchapter F of Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code or (ii) is a company listed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts under Sections 806.051, 807.051, or 2252.153 of the Texas Government Code. The term 'foreign terrorist organization' in this paragraph has the meaning assigned to such term in Section 2252.151 of the Texas Government Code.

### **Vendor Representation Regarding Israel**

Pursuant to Chapter 2271, Texas Government Code, we represent that we do not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract. The term 'boycott Israel' shall have the meaning ascribed to this term in Section 808.001 of the Texas Government Code.

### **Required Non-Appropriation Clause**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this engagement to the contrary, in the event no funds or insufficient funds are appropriated and budgeted or are otherwise unavailable in any fiscal period for fees due under this engagement agreement, the City will immediately notify us in writing of such occurrence and this agreement shall terminate on the last day of the fiscal period for which appropriations have been received or made.

**Authorization of CPA's Disclosure**

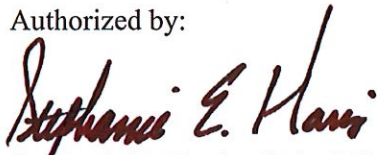
Any client certified public accountant involved with assisting us shall not be prohibited from disclosure of information required to be made available by the standards of the public accounting profession in reporting on the examination of financial statements. Management understands and provides permission to staff certificate or registration holders as required under the Rules of Professional Conduct, Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 22, Chapter 501, Subchapter C, Section 501.75.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the City and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Sincerely,

**Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

Authorized by:



Stephanie E. Harris, CPA, CGMA  
Partner

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of City of Montgomery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable Sara Countryman, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date