



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Green Community Improvement Corporation
Summit County
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We have completed certain procedures in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.01(G) to the accounting records and related documents of the Green Community Improvement Corporation, Summit County, (the Corporation) for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

Our procedures were designed solely to satisfy the audit requirements of Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A). Because our procedures were not designed to opine on the Corporation's financial statements, we did not follow *generally accepted auditing standards*. We do not provide any assurance on the Corporation's financial statements, transactions or balances for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

The Corporation's management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents. Our responsibility under Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.11(A) is to examine, analyze and inspect these records and documents.

Based on the results of our procedures, we found the following significant compliance or accounting issues to report.

Current Year Observations

1. Sound accounting practices require that when designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should ensure adequate security of assets and records, and verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records.

The reconciliation of cash (bank) balances to accounting records (book) is the most basic and primary control process performed. Lack of completing an accurate and timely reconciliation may allow for accounting errors, theft and fraud to occur without timely detection.

Monthly bank to book reconciliations were not prepared for 2020 or 2019. Failure to reconcile monthly increases the possibility that the Corporation will not be able to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, and record its transactions correctly or to document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements. Further, the lack of accurate monthly reconciliations increases the risk of theft/fraud over the cash cycle and could lead to inaccurate reporting in the annual financial statements.

The Administrative Coordinator should record all transactions and prepare monthly bank to book cash reconciliations, which include all bank accounts. Variances should be investigated, documented and corrected. In addition, the Secretary/Treasurer should review the monthly cash reconciliations including the related support (such as reconciling items) and document the reviews.

2. **Ohio Rev. Code § 1724.05** provides, in part, that the Corporation shall prepare an annual financial report according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and shall be filed with the auditor of state within one hundred twenty days following the last day of the Corporation's fiscal year. The Corporation did not file its financial report for 2020 until August 2, 2021; therefore, it was not filed timely.

The Corporation should implement controls to help ensure its financial reports are filed in the Hinkle System within the required time period for each respective year.

3. **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2)** provides that every public office must have a policy in place for responding to public records requests. Generally, a public records policy cannot: (1) limit the number of public records the office will make available to a single person; (2) limit the number of public records the office will make available during a fixed period of time; and (3) establish a fixed period of time before the office will respond to a request for inspection/copying of public records unless that period is less than eight hours. However, pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(7)(c)**, the policy may limit the number of public records the public office will physically deliver by U.S. Mail or other delivery service to ten per month unless the person certifies to the office in writing that the person does not intend to use or forward the requested records, or the information contained in them, for commercial purposes. "Commercial" is narrowly construed and does not include reporting or gathering news, reporting or gathering information to assist citizen oversight or understanding of the operation or activities of government, or nonprofit educational research.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2) further requires all public offices take certain actions with regard to their public record policy. Public offices must distribute their Public Records Policy to the employee who is the records custodian/manager or otherwise has custody of the records of that office and have that employee acknowledge receipt of the Public Records Policy; create and display in a conspicuous place in all locations where the public office has branch offices a poster describing the public records policy; and, if the public office has a manual or handbook of its general policies and procedures for all employees, include the public records policy in that manual or handbook.

Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2) provides, in part, that a public office also shall have available a copy of its current records retention schedule at a location readily available to the public.

The Corporation has no formal written public records policy or records retention schedule that would demonstrate compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. This could result in records requests not being fulfilled in accordance with Ohio law.

The Corporation shall establish a public records policy. The policy shall be distributed to the records custodian/manager and the Corporation should have a written acknowledgement of receipt from the records custodian/manager. In addition, a poster describing the public records policy must be conspicuously displayed in all of the Corporation's branch offices and the public records policy must be included in policy manuals or handbooks if any exist.

Pursuant to **Ohio Rev. Code § 109.43(E)(2)**, the Ohio Attorney General has developed and provided to all public offices a model public records policy for responding to public records requests. The policy, which is available at <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Government-Entities/Model-Public-Records-Policy.aspx>, provides guidance to public offices in developing their own policies for responding to public records requests in compliance with the Public Records Act.

The Corporation shall also establish a records retention schedule that is readily available to the public.

Current Status of Matters Reported in our Prior Engagement

4. Our prior audit for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 included an issue regarding the Corporation not filing its 2018 financial report timely. As stated above, the Corporation did not file its 2020 financial report timely.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 10, 2021

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GREEN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

SUMMIT COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 9/21/2021

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov