From: McCarthy, Pat (SAO)
To: Collins, Kelly (SAO); Wilson, Mandy (SAO); Strand, Ann (SAO)
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO); Rooney, Keri (SAO); Blair, Teri (SAO)
Subject: RE: City of Sunnyside Audit Request
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 7:12:24 AM

Thanks.
P

From: Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>; Strand, Ann (SAO) <stranda@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>; Rooney, Keri (SAO) <rooneyk@sao.wa.gov>; McCarthy, Pat (SAO) <mccarthyp@sao.wa.gov>; Blair, Teri (SAO) <blairt@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

Mandy, Thank you for the circle back on your conversation with the City Manager. Keep us posted.

From: Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>; Strand, Ann (SAO) <stranda@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

Hi Kelly,

Amy and I spoke with the City Manager and he has just started the position this month where he came from Franklin County. His concerns were over the mismanagement of funds, specifically with the budget, ARPA funding, Ambulance funds, and other areas. He was not aware of any misappropriation. He let go of the finance director and said our liaison might be quitting soon. He hired consultants to review the bookkeeping, and citizens are requesting a forensic audit but wasn't sure what that type of audit would look like.

He was aware that we would be doing an audit soon. We explained the differences between financial, single and accountability audits. We also informed him we will be doing an accountability audit later this year. We would be in touch with him again in the next week when we start the financial and single audit. The conversation went well and I think we addressed his concerns.

Thank you,
Mandy

From: Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Strand, Ann (SAO) <stranda@sao.wa.gov>; Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

Thank you!

From: Strand, Ann (SAO) <stranda@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 12:21 PM
To: Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>; Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

Thank you for making this a priority Mandy!

From: Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:50 AM
To: Strand, Ann (SAO) <stranda@sao.wa.gov>; Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

Hello,

Amy and I will call the City of Sunnyside's city manager shortly. I will give Ann an update at our meeting this afternoon.

We held the financial/single pre audit meeting last week with the liaison and he was not in attendance. The liaison said she asked him to attend.

Thank you,
Mandy

From: Mike Gonzalez <mgonzalez@sunnyside-wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 11:46 AM
To: McCarthy, Pat (SAO) <mccarthyp@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Wilson, Mandy (SAO) <wilsonm@sao.wa.gov>; Flores, Neyda (SAO) <floresn@sao.wa.gov>; Collins, Kelly (SAO) <collinsk@sao.wa.gov>; Bunger, Amy (SAO) <bungera@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: City of Sunnyside Audit Request

External Email

Dear Pat,

I hope this email finds you well. This is Mike Gonzalez, I'm the new City Manager at the City of Sunnyside. Recently I've discovered that we are 4 million dollars in the red in our 2024 budget. This was mainly because the sale of city owned property was put into our general fund as positive cash flow. The concerning thing for me, is the lack of transparency of our Finance Director, who I let go on August 26th. She wasn't allowing departments to access their budget. She wasn't sharing proper reports with the City Council either.

To put things into perspective, our City Directors haven't had access to their budget in 6 months. Our Fire Chief hasn't had access to his budget in over a year. It appears that our Assistant Finance Director, wasn't properly trained by the former director.
I can't say that money is missing for sure, however, with everything I'm uncovering my suspicions are starting to grow.

I am requesting a forensic audit from the State of Washington. If this level of auditing isn't available, can you please tell me what is? I'm looking forward to talking with someone on your staff who can bring us some clarity. Because at the current moment, there isn't anyone who can say for sure what are budget numbers are. Please give me a call at your earliest convenience at 509-850-4748. Thanks a lot!

Regards,

Mike Gonzalez
Sunnyside City Manager
Cell 509-850-4748
818 E. Edison Sunnyside, WA 98944