

News Release

Auditor General Tables Annual Fraud and Waste Hotline Report

Ottawa, June 22, 2017 – Auditor General Ken Hughes today tabled his annual Fraud and Waste Hotline report to the Audit Committee.

“This is a good news story even though the content may not be good news,” Mr. Hughes told the Committee members. “The report demonstrates that the City of Ottawa is accountable and transparent to both staff and the public. The Fraud and Waste Hotline contributes to the improvement of an ethical culture at the City.”

As the result of reports to the Fraud and Waste Hotline over the past year, 7 employees were terminated and another 7 employees resigned. The cases relate to theft, unauthorized use or misuse of City property or time, violations and falsification.

Mr. Hughes also tabled findings on two other fraud and waste investigations and an update to an LRT audit:

Giver 150 Playground

This investigation followed complaints of alleged lack of transparency and consultation on the 2016 agreement with Sinking Ship Entertainment (SSE) to construct a playground at Mooney’s Bay Park. The Auditor General’s report found no breaches but concluded the agreement with SSE did not fully reflect the principles of transparency, accountability and due process. The City accepted the report’s three recommendations.

Cash Shortages

As the result of reports to the Fraud and Waste Hotline, the Auditor General investigated three incidents of cash shortages totalling \$3,400 at two Client Service Centres run by the City. In the end, it was impossible to determine if the shortages were the result of thefts as City staff were not following proper processes to prevent the loss of City assets.

“While the losses were not large, these incidents demonstrate that cash handling problems identified previously should already have been fixed,” concluded Mr. Hughes. The City accepted the report’s six recommendations.

LRT Planning and Change Management

This is the final report of the Auditor General on the City’s management of moving to the new combined bus and Light Rail Transit system. The report concludes the City is in good shape to make the transition to a mixed transit service using rail and bus.



“Overall, we found no areas of high risks or gaps,” Mr. Hughes told the Audit Committee.

All of the reports tabled today can be seen at the Auditor General’s website at ottawa.ca.

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