



Association of Local Government Auditors

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Rebecca Rynhart
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Dear Rebecca:

The Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) Awards Program Committee is pleased to announce that the City of Philadelphia, Office of the City Controller's report, *The Effectiveness of and Compliance with Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures*, won the 2018 Exemplary Knighton Award in the Extra Large Shop Category.

The Philadelphia Office of the City Controller's mission is to promote the effective and efficient operation of Philadelphia government by conducting financial and performance audits and by identifying cost savings, recommending best practices and modernization, and exposing fraud and mismanagement.

ALGA was founded in 1985 to serve auditors who specialize in working with local governments. ALGA members represent approximately 300 local government audit organizations. Unlike the majority of auditors who work within a single industry, local government auditors must work in an environment that encompasses a wide variety of industries. Local government auditors are committed to helping their governments improve service delivery to citizens while doing so more efficiently and effectively with the limited resources available. In making the award, the judges commented:

The Philadelphia auditors took on a sensitive audit topic that addresses needs and concerns of decision-makers and the public. In developing appropriate audit methodology, the Philadelphia auditors dealt successfully with a significant scope limitation. The unknown completeness of department-provided records was at least partly offset by setting up a phone line for past and current employees to directly tell their experiences to the auditors. Rather than just having an audit finding on the records limitation, this resulted in a more complete analysis. The report notes that many incidents the callers shared as having been reported were not in the department-provided documents. The calls also highlighted common issues, such as employees not understanding complaint reporting options and not knowing how to address the wrong-doing.

The report is organized to concisely present the objective, scope, methodology, and findings in the Executive Summary for readers with limited time. Audit recommendations are straightforward and feasible and will make the City's harassment prevention programs more effective: centralize and clarify the sexual harassment reporting process, standardize discipline guidelines, develop comprehensive prevention training program, and track any related cases and settlement costs. The responses embrace centralized sexual misconduct investigations, consistent discipline, clarified reporting, improved employee training, and centralized complaint tracking.

To encourage increasing levels of excellence among local government auditors, ALGA created the Knighton Award in 1995 to recognize the best performance audit reports produced by local government audit shops in the previous year. Each year, local government audit organizations submit their best performance audit report to be evaluated against five criteria: (1) an audit scope that has the potential for significant impact, and is responsive to the needs and concerns of decision-makers and/or the public; (2) audit conclusions that are persuasive, logical, and firmly supported by the evidence, which was gathered using appropriate research methods and tools; (3) audit recommendations that are feasible, and will make government programs more effective and efficient; and (4) audit results that are communicated in a clear, concise way. Judges from peer organizations determined that the City of Philadelphia, Office of the City Controller's report was among the best of 2018.

Congratulations for receiving this award!

Sincerely,

Kristine Adams-Wannberg, President
ALGA

Lisa Monteiro, Chair
ALGA Awards Program Committee