



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Community Redevelopment Agency of Winter Garden, Florida. (the "CRA") a component unit of the City of Winter Garden, as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the CRA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the CRA, as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the CRA and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements - continued

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the CRA's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. 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 generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. 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, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the CRA's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the CRA's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements - continued

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Required Supplementary Information, as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do 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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 13, 2025, on our consideration of the CRA's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the CRA's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, in considering the CRA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Binney Accounting and
Assurance Services, PLLC*

Binney Accounting and Assurance Services, PLLC

Clermont, FL
March 13, 2025

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

This supplement to the Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements has been developed in accordance with the Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34. It is intended to provide the readers of this report with a general overview of the financial activities of the Community Redevelopment Agency (the CRA). The CRA provides the following discussion and analysis of the CRA's financial activities for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Management's Discussion and Analysis is designed to: (a) assist the reader to focus on significant financial issues, (b) provide an overview of the CRA's financial activities, (c) identify changes in the CRA's financial position, (d) identify material deviations from the financial plan, and (e) identify individual fund issues or concerns. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the CRA's financial statements.

The CRA

The Community Redevelopment Agency was created by the City Commission pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 163, Part III of the Florida Statutes through Ordinance Number 92-48, adopted on June 25, 1992 with the consent of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners. The Community Redevelopment Agency serves to renew economic interest and improve the commercial diversity and viability of a redevelopment area in and around the City's downtown. The governing body of the Agency is made up of the City Commission, a sixth member appointed by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, and a seventh member appointed by the City Commission. The City approves the budget, provides funding and performs all accounting functions for the CRA. The CRA's services are provided exclusively to the City. The Agency is presented as a special revenue fund. The CRA is considered a component unit for financial reporting purposes and is included as a blended special revenue fund within the City's overall basic financial statements.

These financial statements are presented for the purpose of complying with state law, specifically Florida Statute Section 163.387(8)(a), which requires separate audited financial statements for each Community Redevelopment Agency that has revenues or expenditures that exceed \$100,000.

Financial Highlights

- The assets of the CRA exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$8,544,446.
- The CRA's fund balance increased by \$2,763,012 as a result of fiscal year 2024 operations.
- Revenues for fiscal year 2024 were \$1,693,222 while expenditures totaled \$211,856. The City's general fund transfers funds to the CRA for the City portion property tax increment revenue. The transfers in totaled \$1,531,646. In addition, the CRA transfers funds to the City's general fund for capital outlay related to CRA's redevelopment and infrastructure projects. Transfers out for fiscal year 2024 totaled \$250,000.
- For the period ended September 30, 2024, actual revenues exceeded budgeted revenues by \$307,787 while actual expenditures were \$5,708,912 less than budgeted expenditures.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the CRA's basic financial statements, which are comprised of the following four (4) components:

- Government-Wide Financial Statements
- Fund Financial Statements
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Required Supplementary Information

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the CRA's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *Statement of Net Position* presents financial information on all of the CRA's assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the CRA is improving or deteriorating.

The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the CRA's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods.

The government-wide financial statements listed above distinguish functions of the CRA that are principally supported by ad-valorem taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activity of the CRA is community redevelopment.

The government-wide financial statements include only the activities of the CRA. However, the CRA is considered a blended component unit of the City and, as such, the financial information of the CRA is included in the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for each fiscal year.

Fund Financial Statements

A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The CRA uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows* and *outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating the CRA's *near-term* financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the CRA's *near-term* financing decisions. Both the governmental fund Balance Sheet and the governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

projects. The CRA’s expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through a special revenue fund.

Restricted Fund Balance

Fund Balance should be reported as Restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources such as enabling legislative, which authorizes the government to access, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources. All of the CRA’s fund balance is considered Restricted.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information (RSI)

Included in this section of the report is the Budgetary Comparison Schedule.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

Statement of Net Position

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the CRA’s financial position. In the case of the CRA, assets exceeded liabilities by \$8,544,446 as of the close of the most recent fiscal year, an increase of \$2,763,012 in comparison with the prior year.

The following table reflects a summary of the *Statement of Net Position* for the current and prior year:

Community Redevelopment Agency		
	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,852,107	\$ 5,125,651
Investments	700,179	655,783
Total Assets	8,552,286	5,781,434
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	7,840	-
Total Liabilities	7,840	-
Net Position		
Restricted	8,544,446	5,781,434
Total Net Position	\$ 8,544,446	\$ 5,781,434

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Statement of Activities

The following table reflects the *Statement of Activities* for the current and prior year:

	2024	2023
Revenues		
Property Taxes	\$ 1,352,392	\$ 1,228,670
Investment Income	340,830	178,644
Total Revenues	1,693,222	1,407,314
Expenditures		
Current:		
Economic Development	211,856	36,721
Debt Service:		
Interest	-	975
Total Expenditures	211,856	37,696
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	1,481,366	1,369,618
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		
Transfer In	1,531,646	1,350,323
Transfer (Out)	(250,000)	(645,414)
Net Change in Net Position	2,763,012	2,074,527
Net Position, Beginning of Year	5,781,434	3,706,907
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 8,544,446	\$ 5,781,434

Fiscal year 2024 activities increased the CRA's net position by \$2,763,012, or 48%, in comparison with the prior year. This change resulted from an increase in tax increment financing revenues in the current year due to an increase in property values within the CRA District.

Financial Analysis of the CRA's Funds

Governmental Funds

The focus of the CRA's *governmental funds* is to provide information on *near-term* inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable resources*. Such information is useful in assessing the CRA's financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

The CRA's fund balance of \$8,544,446 is restricted for redevelopment projects within the CRA district.

Property taxes totaling \$1,352,392 represented the majority of all revenues. The CRA's fund balance increased by \$2,763,012 in the current year. The increase in tax increment financing revenues received by the CRA in the current year resulted from increased property values within the CRA district.

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

The CRA's capital assets are considered to be property of the City and, therefore, are included as capital assets in the City's government-wide financial statements. Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2024, can be found in the City's audited financial statements.

At September 30, 2024, the CRA had no long-term debt. Throughout each fiscal year, the CRA transfers funds to the City's general fund to cover a portion of the long-term debt that was incurred to be used for redevelopment and infrastructure projects.

Budgetary Highlights

An annual budget is prepared for the CRA and approved by the Board. The legal level of control is maintained at the fund level. During 2024, the Board approved a supplemental budget appropriation to provide for carryforward of projects that were budgeted for in the prior period but not complete by the end of FY 2023. This appropriation caused an increase from the original budget of \$3,354,047, for Economic Development expenditures. Budget appropriations may not be legally exceeded on a fund basis. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

Specific Information for Dependent Special District

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, Rules of the Auditor General, the CRA reported:

- a. The total number of district employees compensated in the last pay period of the district's fiscal year as 0.
- b. The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the district's fiscal year as 0.
- c. All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency as \$0.
- d. All compensation earned by or awarded to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency as \$0.
- e. Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the district that is scheduled to begin on or after October 1 of the fiscal year being reported, together with the total expenditures for such project as \$0.
- f. The board adopted the original budget in accordance under Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, before the beginning of the fiscal year. The district subsequently amended the budget during the fiscal year to increase the original budget in the amount of \$3,354,047.

Economic Factors and Future Developments

The CRA will continue to plan projects and infrastructure improvements that align with its redevelopment priorities for the designated district. The CRA will continue to implement the community's shared development goals through its redevelopment strategies and critical tasks.

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Request for Information

This financial information is designed to present users with a general overview of the CRA's finances for all those with an interest in its finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Community Redevelopment Agency located at the Office of the Economic Development Director, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida, 34787.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 2)</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position</u>
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,852,107	\$ -	\$ 7,852,107
Investments	700,179	-	700,179
Total Assets	<u>8,552,286</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,552,286</u>
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	7,840	-	7,840
Total Liabilities	<u>7,840</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,840</u>
Fund Balance			
Restricted	8,544,446	(8,544,446)	-
Total Fund Balance	<u>8,544,446</u>	<u>(8,544,446)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 8,552,286</u>		
Net Position			
Restricted for:			
Community Redevelopment Projects		8,544,446	8,544,446
Total Net Position		<u>\$ 8,544,446</u>	<u>\$ 8,544,446</u>

See accompanying notes

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Adjustments (Note 2)</u>	<u>Statement of Activities</u>
Revenues			
Property Taxes	\$ 1,352,392	\$ -	\$ 1,352,392
Investment Income	340,830	-	340,830
Total Revenues	<u>1,693,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,693,222</u>
Expenditures			
Current:			
Economic Development	211,856	(176,135)	35,721
Total Expenditures	<u>211,856</u>	<u>(176,135)</u>	<u>35,721</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>1,481,366</u>	<u>176,135</u>	<u>1,657,501</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Capital Outlay Contributed to Primary Government	-	(176,135)	(176,135)
Transfers In	1,531,646	-	1,531,646
Transfers (Out)	(250,000)	-	(250,000)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,281,646</u>	<u>(176,135)</u>	<u>1,105,511</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	2,763,012	-	2,763,012
Fund Balance/Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>5,781,434</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,781,434</u>
Fund Balance/Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 8,544,446</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,544,446</u>

See accompanying notes.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Community Redevelopment Agency's (the CRA) financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as applicable to governments. The following is a summary of the more significant policies:

Reporting Entity

The CRA was created under the Florida Statutes, Chapter 163.410 and Ordinance No. 92-48 of the City of Winter Garden (the City). The purpose of the CRA is to establish the redevelopment priorities for the designated CRA. The governing body of the Agency is made up of the City Commission, a sixth member appointed by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, and a seventh member appointed by the City Commission. The City approves the budget, provides funding and performs all accounting functions for the CRA. The CRA's services are provided exclusively to the City. The Agency is presented as a special revenue fund. The CRA is considered a component unit for financial reporting purposes and is included as a blended special revenue fund within the City's overall basic financial statements.

Financial Statements

These financial statements are presented for the purpose of complying with state law, specifically Florida Statutes, Section 163.387(8)(a), which requires separate audited financial statements for each Community Redevelopment Agency that has revenues or expenditures that exceed \$100,000.

Entity-wide financial statements are prepared at the City-wide level by the City and include the CRA. Copies of that report can be obtained from the City's Office of Budget and Finance.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are resources when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting, except for debt service expenditures, which are recorded only when payment is due.

Considering that the fund statements are presented on a different measurement focus and basis of accounting than the government-wide governmental activities column, a reconciliation is sometimes necessary to explain the adjustments needed to reconcile the fund based financial statements to the governmental activities column of the government-wide presentation.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**

Tax increment financing revenue, when levied for and interest associated with the current fiscal period, is both considered to be measurable and has been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal year, if available.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the CRA's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

The CRA reports the general fund as a major governmental fund. The general fund is used to account for all financial resources received by the CRA. The general fund serves as the primary operating fund of the CRA. The CRA does not have any non-major funds.

Budgetary Requirements

An annual budget is prepared for all funds of the City, including the CRA. The budget amounts presented in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted, or as legally amended, by the Commission during the year ended September 30, 2024. The City Manager is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts within the fund; however, all budget amendments require CRA Board approval and any budget amendments that alter the total expenditures of the fund must be approved by the Commission. During 2024, the Commission approved supplemental budget appropriations to provide for carryforward of projects that were budgeted for in the prior period but not complete by the end of FY 2023. This appropriation caused an increase from the original budget of \$3,354,047, for Economic Development expenditures. Budget appropriations may not be legally exceeded on a fund basis. Appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

Assets, Liabilities and Net Position

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

The CRA participates in the City's pooled cash and investment portfolio. The City's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. The City maintains a cash and investment pool that is utilized by all funds except those that require separate accounts. Each pooled cash fund is allocated interest on ending monthly cash balances held by the fund throughout the year. State statutes authorize the City to invest in the State Board of Administration's (SBA) Local Government Surplus Funds Trust Fund (Florida PRIME), United States government securities, United States government agencies, federal instrumentalities, non-negotiable interest bearing time certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper, state and local government taxable and tax-exempt debt, registered investment companies, and intergovernmental investment pools.

Capital Assets

Capital assets include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items). The CRA's capital assets are considered to be property of the City and, therefore, are included as capital assets in the City's government-wide financial statements. Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2024, can be found in the City's audited financial statements. As the capital assets are retained by the City, the CRA contributes capital to the general fund for capital outlay related to the CRA's redevelopment and infrastructure projects.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**

Nature and Purpose of the Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements the governmental fund reports fund classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the CRA is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the fund can be spent. Amounts that are restricted to specific purposes either by: a) constraints placed on the use of resources by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation, are classified as restricted fund balances. Amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by the Board through an ordinance or resolution are classified as committed fund balances. Amounts that are constrained by the CRA's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed are classified as assigned fund balances. Assignments are made by the Board or the City Manager. Non-spendable fund balances include amounts that cannot be spent because they are either: a) not in spendable form, or b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Unassigned fund balance represents fund balance that is not restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

Unspent tax increment financing revenues are restricted for future redevelopment projects and are reported as restricted fund balance in the financial statements. Unassigned fund balance, if any, represents fund balance that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

Net Position

The government-wide statements utilized a net position presentation. Restricted net position are unspent tax increment financing revenues that are restricted for future redevelopment projects. Unrestricted net position represents the net position of the CRA that is not restricted for any project or purpose.

Other Significant Accounting Policies

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statement and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Transfers and Contributions

The City's general fund transfers funds to the CRA for the City portion property tax increment revenue. Capital outlay is contributed by the CRA to the City's general fund for capital outlay incurred for the CRA's redevelopment and infrastructure projects.

Payroll-Related Expenses and Liabilities

The employees that manage or are involved in day-to-day operations of the CRA are employees of the City. Per an agreement with the City, the CRA is charged an administrative fee related to those employees. Payroll-related activity for the year ended September 30, 2024, can be found in the City's audited financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA**

Note 2 - Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet

The governmental fund balance sheet includes a reconciliation between fund balance - total governmental funds and net position of governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of net position.

Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances

The governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance includes a reconciliation between the capital outlay of the governmental fund and the capital outlay contributed to the primary government as reported in the government-wide statement of activities.

Note 3 - Cash and Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments

At September 30, 2024, the carrying amount of the CRA's cash equivalents and investments was \$8,552,286. These funds are a part of the City's pooled cash funds. The City's cash deposits are held by a bank that qualifies as a public depository under the *Florida Security for Public Deposits Act* as required by Chapter 280, Florida Statutes. The City maintains an investment policy managing pooled cash and investments. Further information on the City's pooled cash and investments can be found in the notes to the annual financial statements of the City.

Note 4 - Tax Increment Financing Revenue

The CRA is primarily funded through tax increment financing revenue. The tax increment revenue is calculated by applying the adopted millage rate to the increase in current year taxable assessed valuations within the designated CRA districts, using the year in which they were established as the "base year". The City is required to contribute a minimum of 50% and maximum of 95% of the incremental property taxes levied each year. The County is required to contribute 50% of the incremental property taxes levied each year for 30 years, as the CRA's taxable value is 115% of its base year taxable value.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET TO ACTUAL
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$ 1,356,594	\$ 1,356,594	\$ 1,352,392	\$ (4,202)
Investment Income	28,841	28,841	340,830	311,989
Total Revenues	<u>1,385,435</u>	<u>1,385,435</u>	<u>1,693,222</u>	<u>307,787</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
Economic Development	2,566,721	5,920,768	211,856	5,708,912
Debt service:				
Interest	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>2,566,721</u>	<u>5,920,768</u>	<u>211,856</u>	<u>5,708,912</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(1,181,286)</u>	<u>(4,535,333)</u>	<u>1,481,366</u>	<u>6,016,699</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers In	1,531,646	1,531,646	1,531,646	-
Transfers Out	-	(250,000)	(250,000)	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,531,646</u>	<u>1,281,646</u>	<u>1,281,646</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	350,360	(3,253,687)	2,763,012	6,016,699
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	<u>5,781,434</u>	<u>5,781,434</u>	<u>5,781,434</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balances, End of Year	<u>\$ 6,131,794</u>	<u>\$ 2,527,747</u>	<u>\$ 8,544,446</u>	<u>\$ 6,016,699</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the Winter Garden, Florida (the "CRA") a component unit of the City of Winter Garden, Florida, as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise CRA's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 13, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the CRA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of CRA's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the CRA's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the CRA's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that were not identified.

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the CRA's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statement. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the CRA's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the CRA's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Binney Accounting and
Assurance Services, PLLC*

Clermont, Florida
March 13, 2025



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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 218.415, FLORIDA STATUTES**

The Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

We have examined the Community Redevelopment Agency of Winter Garden, Florida's (the "CRA") compliance with the requirements of Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds, and Sections 163.387(6) and (7), *Florida Statutes*, regarding community redevelopment agencies, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, as required by Section 10.556(10)(f), Rules of the Auditor General. Management is responsible for the CRA's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the CRA's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the CRA complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the CRA complied with the specific requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risk of material non-compliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the CRA's compliance with specific requirements.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the examination engagement.

In our opinion, the CRA complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended September 30, 2024.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, management, and the Board of Directors of the CRA, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Binney Accounting and
Assurance Services, PLLC*

Clermont, FL
March 13, 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT LETTER REQUIRED
BY CHAPTER 10.550, RULES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL**

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Report on Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Community Redevelopment Agency of Winter Garden, Florida (the "CRA") as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated March 13, 2025.

Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*; and Independent Accountant's Report on an examination conducted in accordance with American Institute of Certified Public Accountant's *Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated March 13, 2025, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, require that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no findings or recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The legal authority of the CRA is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The CRA does not have any component units.

Financial Condition and Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)5.a, and 10.556(7) *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, require that we apply appropriate procedures and communicate the results of our determination as to whether or not the CRA has met one or more of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes, and identification of

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Financial Condition and Management - continued

the specific condition(s) met. In connection with our audit, we determined that the CRA did not meet any of the conditions described in Section 218.503(1), Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to sections 10.554(1)(i)5.b. and 10.556(8), *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, we applied financial condition assessment procedures for the CRA. It is management's responsibility to monitor the CRA financial condition, and our financial condition assessment was based in part on representations made by management and the review of financial information provided by same.

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, require that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs

As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.a., Rules of the Auditor General, the CRA is required to include a statement as to whether a PACE program authorized pursuant to Section 163.081 or Section 163.082, Florida Statutes, did/did not operate within the CRA's geographical boundaries during the fiscal year under audit. The CRA did not operate a PACE program within the CRA's geographical boundary.

As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.b., Rules of the Auditor General, if a PACE program was operating within the geographical areas of the , a list of all program administrators and third-party administrators that administered the program. The CRA did not operate a PACE program within the CRA's geographical boundary.

As required by Section 10.554(1)(i)6.c., Rules of the Auditor General, if a PACE program was operating within the geographical areas of the (name of entity), the full names and contact information of each such program administrator and third-party administrator. The CRA did not operate a PACE program within the CRA's geographical boundary.

Special District Component Units

Special District Component Units Section 10.554(1)(i)5.c., *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, requires, if appropriate, that we communicate the failure of a special district that is a component unit of a county, municipality, or special district, to provide the financial information necessary for proper reporting of the component unit within the audited financial statements of the county, municipality, or special district in accordance with Section 218.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes. In connection with our audit, we did not note any special district component units that failed to provide the necessary information for proper reporting in accordance with Section 218.39(3)(b), Florida Statutes.

Specific Special District Information

As required by Section 218.39(3)(c), Florida Statutes, and Section 10.554(1)(i)6, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, the CRA reported the following information that is required but not subject to audit procedures:

Board of Directors
Community Redevelopment Agency
Winter Garden, Florida

Specific Special District Information - continued

- a. The total number of CRA employees compensated in the last pay period of the CRA's fiscal year as 0.
- b. The total number of independent contractors to whom nonemployee compensation was paid in the last month of the CRA's fiscal year as 0.
- c. All compensation earned by or awarded to employees, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency as \$0.
- d. All compensation earned by or awarded to nonemployee independent contractors, whether paid or accrued, regardless of contingency as \$0.
- e. Each construction project with a total cost of at least \$65,000 approved by the CRA that is scheduled to begin on or after October 1 of the fiscal year being reported, together with the total expenditures for such project as \$0.
- f. The board adopted the original budget in accordance under Section 189.016(4), Florida Statutes, before the beginning of the fiscal year. The CRA subsequently amended the budget during the fiscal year to increase the original budget in the amount of \$3,554,047.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3, *Rules of the Florida Auditor General*, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material, but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, federal and other granting agencies, the Mayor and City Commission of Winter Garden, Florida and applicable management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Bunney Accounting and
Assurance Services, PLLC*

Clermont, Florida
March 13, 2025