



State Auditor
Julie Blaha

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

E-Update

May 29, 2020



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1. Message from Auditor Blaha

This week will be remembered as one of the most painful in Minnesota's history. The senseless murder of George Floyd, an unarmed man, a black man, a man from Minneapolis, is a scar that we will carry with us for a long time.

I share this to remind you that even in the middle of a pandemic, communities are hurting and breaking. Over the last few days, our grief has been on display in all its forms in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. While it will be tempting to focus on the violence, we would do better to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote, "A riot is the language of the unheard." For change to happen, real change, we must first focus on the grief and give voice to the demand for justice.

Along with the pain from this tragedy, we are still in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. While the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is not physically open today, we remain accessible by email and phone. Please continue to reach out with your questions and concerns by contacting staff here: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=contact>

Finally, all updates regarding COVID-19 from the OSA may be found here: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=covid19updates>

As we go forward, let us remember to begin our work with compassion and finish with action.

2. Important Notice: Service of Process

The Office of the State Auditor recognizes that the health and safety of its employees and the public are of paramount importance during this COVID-19 outbreak. In an effort to minimize the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus, until the end of the Governor's Emergency Declaration the Office of the State Auditor will accept service of process pursuant to state and federal rules of procedure 4 and 5 at the following email address: COVID-service@osa.state.mn.us.

You may read the full notice here:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=ServiceOfProcess>

3. Update: Pension and Retirement Bill Signed

The 2020 Pension and Retirement Bill was signed into law. The Bill includes a number of changes that pertain to fire relief associations, including the State Auditor's Volunteer Fire Relief Association Working Group provisions. Detailed information regarding the changes will be provided in our 2020 Legislative Update.

The changes can be viewed at:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2020/0/Session+Law/Chapter/108/>

4. Released: Pension Newsletter

The May Pension Newsletter has been released. The Newsletter provides a summary of relief association legislative changes that were recently passed into law. The Newsletter also includes a reporting reminder and information about the audit threshold for relief associations, and information about an exception to the federal tax on early pension distributions.

The complete Newsletter can be accessed at:

https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/other/PensionDocs/pensionNewsletter_2005.pdf.

5. TIF: Changes to TIF Authority Training

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is planning changes to the TIF Authority Training that was originally planned to be held this July at various locations around the state. Instead of in-person classroom sessions, the OSA will conduct webinars. We anticipate announcing details later in June for training dates in July.

6. Avoiding Pitfalls: Claims Payment Period

Public entities should review vendor invoices to determine when payments are due. Some vendors set payment periods of less than 30 days. Generally the governing body of a public entity must approve the payment of all claims prior to payment being made. Shortened payment periods may make it difficult to present claims to the governing body for approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.

This Avoiding Pitfall is available on our website at:

<https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110930.000>

If you are interested in signing up to receive an e-mail version of the E-Update regularly, send an e-mail with your contact information to signup@osa.state.mn.us.

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