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CITY COMMISSIONERS:
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Commissioner Everett D. McPherson, Sr.
Commissioner James H. Scott

CHARTER OFFICERS:
Michael E. Jackson, City Manager
Nylene Clarke, City Clerk
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, City Attorney

City of Pahokee Press Release:
Written Statement in Response to Office of Inspector General's Audit

The City of Pahokee received the Final Audit Report from the Office of Inspector General on April 15, 2025. This current Audit is one (1) of five (5) reports from the Office of Inspector General regarding the City of Pahokee, spanning over the past thirteen (13) years and concentrates on accounts payable expenditure and cash disbursement activities from October 1, 2017 to June 27, 2022 and credit card transactions from October 4, 2017 to January 10, 2023.

The city clearly states, in its Management Response, that it concurs with all eight (8) findings identified in the audit report and will take specific recommended actions to address each finding, with aligning the city's policies with its Ordinances and State Statutes being primary. The city has recently updated some of its policies but will continue to amend others to include potentially changing existing Ordinances to ensure consistency in the adherence of all of its governing rules/laws.

The audit report states that, "the City lacked sufficient documentation for many of the expenditure transactions we tested; as a result, we could not determine where those expenditures were for a valid public purpose or in compliance with written requirements." During the audited years, a great amount of administrative and elected officials' turnover occurred especially between April 2, 2021 and April 12, 2022. This led to a great deal of documents being physically removed from City Hall. I invite a full investigation into the whereabouts of these missing documents and have a great deal of confidence that if successfully recovered and received, a measurable amount of these audit findings would be invalidated.

Lastly, the City of Pahokee respects the Office of Inspector General's and the audit findings from previous years. The current city administration and commission fully understands the importance of operating and managing with accountability. We fully agree and commit to the recommendations set forth in this audit report and pledge to "increase transparency and accountability over its use of taxpayer dollars."