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March 30, 2016

Mayor Ernest T. Chargualaf
Municipality of Merizo

Dear Mayor Chargualaf:

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement of the Mayors' Council of Guam for the year ended September 30, 2015 (on which we have issued our report dated March 30, 2016), 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, we considered the Mayors' Council of Guam's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Mayors' Council of Guam's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Mayors' Council of Guam's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, in connection with our audit, we identified, and included in the attached Appendix I, deficiencies related to the Mayors' Council of Guam's Merizo Mayor's Office internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2015 that we wish to bring to your attention.

The definition of a deficiency is also set forth in the attached Appendix I.

A description of the responsibility of management for establishing and maintaining internal control over financial reporting and of the objectives of and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, is set forth in the attached Appendix II and should be read in conjunction with this report.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Mayors' Council of Guam, management, others within the organization and the Office of Public Accountability – Guam, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is also a matter of public record.

We will be pleased to discuss the attached comments with you and, if desired, to assist you in implementing any of the suggestions.

We wish to thank the staff and management of the Merizo Mayor's Office for their cooperation and assistance during the course of this engagement.

Very truly yours,

SECTION I – DEFICIENCIES

We identified, and have included below, deficiencies involving the Mayors' Council of Guam's Merizo Mayor's Office internal control over financial reporting as of September 30, 2015 that we wish to bring to your attention:

1. Compliance with Applicable Procurement Rules and Regulations

Of five disbursements tested aggregating \$14,300, procurement documents were not available for check #915 (\$2,350) and #342 (\$2,125). Disbursements from Non-Appropriated Funds (NAF) were not subjected to procurement procedures due to the absence of formal procurement rules and regulations governing NAF. The Mayor's Council of Guam has established a Task Force to research and clarify procurement regulations applicable to NAF. Currently, the Task Force is in the process of developing a uniform procurement policy.

We recommend the Merizo Mayor's Office continue to coordinate with the Mayors' Council of Guam in its initiative to develop a procurement policy governing NAF that will be consistently and uniformly used by all nineteen districts.

2. Monitoring of Non-Profit Organizations

A formal process to monitor non-profit organizations utilizing the Merizo Mayor's Office facilities is not in place.

We recommend that the Merizo Mayor's Office determine whether non-profit organizations utilizing its facilities are in compliance with Department of Revenue and Taxation filings.

3. Disbursements Authorization

Only one signature is required for NAF disbursements.

The Merizo Mayor's Office should consider requiring two signatures for disbursements in excess of \$100.

4. Receipts

In the tests of receipt transactions, the following were noted:

- a. Deposits of \$28,870 to the regular NAF and \$900 to the Cemetery Fund were not receipted. Also, the nature of \$4,400 deposits was not identified by the Merizo Mayor's Office.

We recommend that receipts be issued for all funds received, regardless of activity or amount. In the event that this process becomes impracticable, we recommend that a cash receipts log or an equivalent record be maintained to keep track of funds received. The log/record should contain information as to source, nature and amount of funds received. Further, we recommend that cash receipts per books be regularly reconciled to deposits per bank statements.

- b. Of four receipt transactions tested, two receipts relating to ticket sales (#729010 for \$1,500 and #223720 for \$1,000) were not deposited. Instead of paying via check, the Merizo Mayor's Office used the proceeds to pay commissions to various sellers.

We recommend that receipts be deposited intact and timely, and that all disbursements be made through checks. Further, we recommend that cash receipts per books be regularly reconciled to deposits per bank.

SECTION II – DEFINITIONS

The definition of a deficiency is as follows:

A *deficiency* in internal control over financial reporting 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 deficiency in design exists when (a) a control necessary to meet the control objective is missing or (b) an existing control is not properly designed so that, even if the control operates as designed, the control objective would not be met. A deficiency in operation exists when (a) a properly designed control does not operate as designed, or (b) the person performing the control does not possess the necessary authority or competence to perform the control effectively.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND THE OBJECTIVES AND LIMITATIONS OF, INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The following comments concerning management's responsibility for internal control over financial reporting and the objectives and inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting are adapted from auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for the overall accuracy of the financial statements and their conformity with accounting principles used to prepare the financial statements. In this regard, management is also responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting.

Objectives of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Internal control over financial reporting is a process affected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel and designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control over the safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition may include controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally, controls that are relevant to an audit of financial statements are those that pertain to the entity's objective of reliable financial reporting (i.e., the preparation of reliable financial statements that are fairly presented in conformity with accounting principles used to prepare the financial statements).

Inherent Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.