

AUDIT SCOPE STATEMENT – October 11, 2023

Cyber Incident Response Plans

Why Audit Cyber Incident Response Plans?

Cybersecurity incidents which result in data breaches pose significant financial, safety, and health risks to the city. A cyber incident is an event on or through a computer network that results in a negative or potentially negative effect on the network, systems, or information kept on the systems. The city's Information Technology Division, a division of the General Services Department, is responsible for responding to cyber incidents.

A cyber incident response plan provides information technology personnel with a roadmap for responding during an incident. Cyber incident response plans can help the city mitigate or reduce damage from cyber incidents and quickly return the city to normal operations.

The average total cost of a cybersecurity breach in the United States is over \$9 million. An effective cyber incident response plan is also one of the most effective methods to reduce costs when a breach occurs. Organizations with data breaches that had high levels of incident response planning saved \$1.5 million compared to those with low levels of planning.

Data breaches could cost the city through lost productivity; financial loss from ransomware or fines for exposure of private data; and damage to the city's reputation. Breaches to public safety communication systems and utility operations could threaten citizen security and health.

Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- Do the Information Technology Division's cyber incident response plans incorporate cybersecurity standards and recommended practices?

Audit methods

We will interview city staff to identify the Information Technology Division's current cyber incident response plans; review cybersecurity standards and recommended practices; and compare the city's response plans to select practices and identify areas for improvement.

Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in February 2024.



**KANSAS CITY
MISSOURI**

Office of the City Auditor

Douglas Jones, CGAP, CIA, CRMA – City Auditor

21st Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th St.

Kansas City, Missouri 64106

816-513-3300

cityauditor@kcmo.org

[@KCMOCityAuditor](https://twitter.com/KCMOCityAuditor)

[KCMO.GOV/CITYAUDITOR](https://www.kcmo.gov/cityauditor)