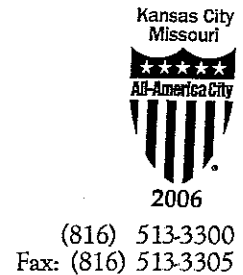




Office of the City Auditor

Room 2103, City Hall  
414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



October 14, 2008

Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners  
4600 E. 63rd St.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64130

Dear Commissioners:

The Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners requested the City Auditor's Office conduct an audit examining vendor compliance with the terms of the Cooperative Agreement for the 2008 Kansas City Flower, Lawn and Garden show and Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City show. I do not believe conducting a compliance audit would effectively address the Parks Board's broader concerns.

The list of audit topics communicated in a May 11, 2008 letter from Parks Board member Aggie Stackhaus included asking my office to determine whether the Flower, Lawn and Garden show contract is fair and whether the city is receiving all the agreed-to benefits. A June 30, 2008 e-mail from Burnetta Burtin, Parks and Recreation's Administrative Officer, listed audit areas identified during Parks Board discussions. It also asked us to determine whether the city was receiving all the benefits promised from the 2008 Flower, Lawn and Garden show contract.

However, in my September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with the board, the discussion focused on a broader issue, namely determining whether the city's benefits from the Flower, Lawn and Garden show are maximized. The most effective way to assess this is for the Parks Department to do a request for proposals (RFP) for the 2009 show.

The City Auditor's Office previously recommended a competitive process for selecting business partners in the Starlight Theatre Concession Agreement audit. In that audit, we could not determine whether the city was receiving all the benefits it could from the concession agreement without a competitive process. Completing an RFP process for the Flower, Lawn and Garden Show allows the board to identify the proposal that provides the city with the greatest benefit.

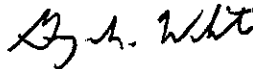
Competition helps government obtain the best product or service at the lowest price. Through a competitive process, the city might be able to obtain a larger share of revenues or other benefits. A competitive process would also help instill citizen trust in city government. The more

systematically and fairly the city awards contracts, the more citizens can trust that their tax dollars are not being wasted.

Initiating a competitive process now should allow the Board an opportunity to review and consider other proposals while still meeting the department's timeline of a board decision in January. I suggest Parks management contact the city's General Services Department and request assistance writing an RFP seeking proposals for next year's Flower, Lawn and Garden show

If you have any questions, please contact me at 513-3320.

Sincerely,



Gary L. White  
City Auditor

cc: Mayor Mark Funkhouser  
Members of the City Council  
Wayne A. Cauthen, City Manager  
Mark McHenry, Parks and Recreation Director  
Burnetta Burtin, Parks and Recreation Administrative Officer  
Gerald C. Smith, General Services Director