



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: ID 17-531 **Version:** 1 **Name:**

Type: Work Session Report

File created: 4/11/2017 **In control:** City Council

On agenda: 4/25/2017 **Final action:**

Title: Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction establishing an anonymous reporting mechanism as that relates to the duties of the City Auditor.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. City Council Presentation 5217, 2. Comparison Study

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Agenda Information Sheet

DEPARTMENT: Internal Audit

CM/ ACM: Mayor and Council

Date: May 2, 2017

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion and give staff direction establishing an anonymous reporting mechanism as that relates to the duties of the City Auditor.

BACKGROUND

City Auditor broached the topic of an anonymous reporting mechanism to strengthen the City’s antifraud program on March 28, 2017. At that time, the City Council instructed the City Auditor to bring this topic back as a Work Session item.

Currently, according to the Fraud Directive, employees who suspect fraud shall report it to their supervisor or can go outside the normal chain of command. That could include their department director, an Assistant City Manager, the City Manager or a member of the investigation committee.

Again, from the Fraud Directive, city employees who are contacted by citizens with evidence or written allegations of fraud shall immediately report it their department director, a member of the investigation committee, an Assistant City Manager or the City Manager.

According to the “Report to the Nations on Occupational Fraud and Abuse,” put out by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the most common detection method in their study was tips (39.1% of cases), but organizations that had reporting hotlines were much more likely to detect fraud through tips than organizations without hotlines (47.3% compared to 28.2%, respectively).

In a survey performed by the Association of Local Government Auditors when asked the question, “Do you have a fraud/waste/abuse hotline?” with 92 audit shops responding, 64% indicated “Yes.” With 45 audit shops responding, 44% indicated the hotline was third party, staffed. The second highest response was 27% showing in house, dedicated staff.

If the City of Denton does not have an anonymous reporting mechanism we risk losing sources who are not comfortable revealing their identity.

OPTIONS

The options are as follows:

- 1) Continue not having an anonymous reporting mechanism.
- 2) Have an in-house anonymous reporting mechanism
- 3) Have an outsourced anonymous reporting mechanism

Additionally, the anonymous reporting mechanism can be applied to only Fraud, Waste and Abuse issues or also include Ethics, Compliance and HR complaints.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends to use the Lighthouse outsourced anonymous reporting mechanism.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

Staff recommends the minimum one year contract and then reassess the program.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

The anonymous reporting mechanism was mentioned at the March 28, 2017 City Council Work Session.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Outsourced vendors range from \$1,800 - \$4,000 annually.

BID INFORMATION

City Auditor received three informal bids which are displayed in Exhibit 1

STRATEGIC PLAN RELATIONSHIP

The City of Denton’s Strategic Plan is an action-oriented road map that will help the City achieve its vision. The foundation for the plan is the five long-term Key Focus Areas (KFA): Organizational Excellence; Public Infrastructure; Economic Development; Safe, Livable, and Family-Friendly Community; and Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. While individual items may support multiple KFAs, this specific City Council agenda item contributes most directly to the following KFA and goal:

Related Key Focus Area: Organizational Excellence
Related Goal: 1.1 Manage financial resources in a responsible manner

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - City Council Presentation

Exhibit 2 - Comparison Study

Respectfully submitted:
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City Auditor

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