

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE REPORT
PREPARED AS A RESULT OF THE AUDIT OF THE

MINNESOTA BALLPARK AUTHORITY
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

DATE OF INCEPTION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006,
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 160 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice - conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

Government Information - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 730 public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

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**MINNESOTA BALLPARK AUTHORITY
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**Date of Inception Through December 31, 2006,
and For the Year Ended December 31, 2007**



Management and Compliance Report

**Audit Practice Division
Office of the State Auditor
State of Minnesota**

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**MINNESOTA BALLPARK AUTHORITY
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

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**MINNESOTA BALLPARK AUTHORITY
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE DATE OF INCEPTION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006,
AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

INTERNAL CONTROL

ITEM ARISING THIS YEAR

07-1 Audit Adjustment

A control deficiency 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 misstatements of the financial statements on a timely basis. Statement on Auditing Standards No. 112 states that one control deficiency that shall be regarded as at least a significant deficiency is identification by the auditor of a material misstatement in the financial statements that was not initially identified by the entity's internal controls, even if management subsequently corrects the misstatement.

During our audit, we identified a material adjustment in the General Fund for the year ended December 31, 2007. Accounts and contracts payable and related expenditures were increased by \$58,977.

The proposed audit adjustment was reviewed and approved by the appropriate staff and is reflected in the financial statements. By definition, however, independent external auditors cannot be considered part of the Authority's internal control.

We recommend that the Authority monitor internal controls over financial reporting to determine that all adjusting entries are made to ensure the Authority's annual financial statements are fairly stated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Client's Response:

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority will institute a new policy where Authority staff will review cash disbursements made from January 1 of each year through the date when audit fieldwork begins and determine whether each payment represents a liability as of December 31 of the year under audit. If determined to be a liability, the Authority staff will ensure that the item is properly included as a liability on the financial statements of the year under audit.

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Commissioners
Minnesota Ballpark Authority

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority as of and for the period from the date of inception through December 31, 2006, and as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, and have issued our report thereon dated August 12, 2008. We conducted our audit 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.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the Authority's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the Authority's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the Authority's internal control. We considered the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 07-1 to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's internal control.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the significant deficiency described above is not a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government* contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study included all of the listed categories, except that we did not test for compliance in public indebtedness, because the Minnesota Ballpark Authority has no debt, and claims and disbursements because that section does not apply to the Authority.

The results of our tests indicate that for the items tested the Minnesota Ballpark Authority complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

The Minnesota Ballpark Authority's written response to the significant deficiency identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations. We did not audit the Authority's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Commissioners, audit committee, management, and others within the Minnesota Ballpark Authority and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

August 12, 2008