



June 25, 2024

Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
Hernando County, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information (the “financial statements”) of Hernando County, Florida (the “County”) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and have issued our reports thereon. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER U.S. GENERALLY ACCEPTED AUDITING STANDARDS AND  
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

As stated in our engagement letter dated September 3, 2020, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements of the County prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the County. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the County’s compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, the objective of our tests was not to provide an opinion on compliance with such provisions.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our communications about planning matters on July 17, 2023.

SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS

*Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. The County adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, in the current year, which resulted in changes to how the County records I.T. agreements. No other new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2023. We noted no transactions entered into by the County during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The significant estimates affecting the County's financial statements include the following accounts: Useful Lives of Capital Assets, Self-Insurance Liability, Compensated Absences, Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities, FRS Pension Liability, and Other Post-Employment Benefits.

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The following disclosures are considered significant: Cash and Investments, Capital Assets, Retirement System, Post-Employment Benefits Other Than Pension, Long-Term Liabilities, and Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Costs.

#### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. For purposes of this letter, professional standards define an audit adjustment as a proposed correction of the financial statements that, in our judgment, may not have been detected except through our auditing procedures. An audit adjustment may or may not indicate matters that could have a significant effect on the County's financial reporting process (that is, cause future financial statements to be materially misstated). There were no audit adjustments made or proposed.

In addition, there were no waived audit adjustments for management to assess.

#### DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 25, 2024.

#### MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the governmental unit's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

OTHER MATTERS

We applied certain limited procedures to the Other Post-Employment Benefits and Pension schedules, which are required supplementary information (“RSI”) that supplement the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on Combining and Budgetary Comparison Schedules of the Non-Major Funds, Combining Statements of the Internal Service Fund, as well as Combining Statements of Fiduciary Funds, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

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This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of County Commissioners and management of the County and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

**MSL, P.A.**