

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Office of Communications  
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Communications@EastPointCity.org**MAYOR**  
Deana Holiday  
Ingraham**COUNCIL  
MEMBERS****Ward A**  
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Shropshire  
Lance C.  
Robertson**Ward B**  
Karen René  
Josette Bailey**Ward C**  
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Cummings  
Myron B.  
Cook**Ward D**  
Joshua B.  
Butler, IV  
Stephanie  
Gordon**CITY  
MANAGER**  
Deron King**STATEMENT RELEASE****Action Items on City of East Point Audit and Finances**

Residents of East Point, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we navigate the financial issues facing our city and this ongoing investigation. This is not an easy or rapid process. I know that many of you are concerned about the state of our city, our finances, and the impact it will have on our community. Many of you attended the council meeting and your voices were heard. I and all Councilmembers want you to know that we are working tirelessly to address these issues, recover the funds and put processes and procedures in place to ensure better checks and balances.

As to the cyber-crime actively being investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, a total of \$1,219,287 was wired (August 18, 2021 – September 8, 2021). On September 9, 2021, the U.S. Secret Service froze the last wire transaction of \$434,197 and the funds were later deposited in the City's bank account on October 6, 2021. Recovery of the outstanding \$785,090 is our top priority.

In the FY21 Audit Exit Interview presentation document, the Rosales Financial Group, LLC (RFG) recommended that the City bring on an Independent Fraud Examiner. We are continuing to move with a sense of urgency to hire a professional and trustworthy, third-party auditing firm to conduct a forensic audit. The purpose of the forensic audit is to identify the full breadth of any fraud, to quantify the impact in dollars and to identify areas for control improvements moving forward. On August 2, 2023, we released an RFP for Forensic Auditing Services. The RFP will close on August 22, 2023. This will position City Council to be able to hire a forensic auditing firm.

As a result of our August 7, 2023, City Council Meeting, the following actions will happen:

- The City's grievance process and whistleblower process will be reviewed and revised.
- The City's Charter will be amended to create an Internal Auditor position that will report directly to City Council. The creation of an Internal Audit Department was a recommendation in the FY2021 Audit Exit Interview presentation document.
- Interim City Attorney Antavius Weems and Police Chief Shawn Buchanan will make a referral to the Public Integrity Unit of the Fulton County District Attorney's Office to investigate financial irregularities that occurred related to the cyber-crime.

I want to assure you that we remain committed to transparency and accountability. We will continue to work together to develop a plan that will not only address our current challenges, but also set us on a path for long-term financial and operational stability. I understand that these are difficult times, but I have faith in our community and our ability to come together to overcome these challenges. We will continue to keep you informed on the audit and financial updates as we move forward and work to build a stronger and more resilient city.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the City of East Point.

Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham

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