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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David D Whitaker 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: January 13, 2023

RE: **Auditor General's Term Expiration**

On February 21, 2023, the Auditor General Mark Lockridge's appointment will expire. Pursuant to the 2012 Detroit City Charter (Charter)¹, Mr. Lockridge is ineligible for reappointment. It would be advisable that the hiring process be initiated as soon as possible to allow a seamless transition from one individual to another.

Pursuant to Section 7.5-103 of the Detroit City Code, the Auditor General appointment is for a 10-year term. The person may be removed only for cause by a 2/3 majority of City Council members serving. According to the Charter², the only qualification a viable candidate must meet is that the person must be a certified public accountant. However, the previous job posting for the Auditor General position listed the pertinent experience and skills a well-qualified candidate should have. The salary of the individual selected will be the same as that of the Ombudsperson.³

The Legislative Policy Division (LPD) suggests that your Honorable Body have further discussion to further clarify the process by which the appointment shall be filled. Previously, City Council has utilized the City's website, local newspapers, professional trade publications, and online employment search engines to advertise open positions. The applications may be received electronically by the Legislative Policy Division and then forwarded to your Honorable Body for consideration after the conclusion of the application deadline. Typically, the Council sets a predetermined number of individuals each member can choose for the interview process. It your prerogative whether you utilize this type of process, choose from the existing employee pool or develop a different application process. With your direction, LPD will draft a resolution outlining the application process.

¹ Section 7.5-103, Term of Office

² Section 7.5-101, Auditor General

³ Section 7.5-404, 2014 Detroit City Code.