

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 22, 2016

To: Scott Manske, Milwaukee County Comptroller
Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Milwaukee County Board Chairman

From: Jerome J. Heer, Director of Audits

Subject: Cybersecurity Audit: Controls over Physical Access to County Data Centers

Background

In July 2015, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution (File No. 15-495) requesting the Audit Services Division to conduct an audit of the Information Management Services Division, Department of Administrative Services (IMSD), and any other County department to address county-wide cybersecurity. Audit Services contracted with Experis Finance, Risk Advisory Services (“Experis”) to perform part of the review, and on May 27, 2016, Audit Services issued a memo informing the Comptroller, County Executive, and County Board Chairman of a confidential cybersecurity audit report which resulted from Experis’ work.

In addition to the work provided by Experis, Audit Services developed a plan to further review key areas of the County’s information technology program. This report covers our review of controls over physical access to the County’s data centers, including their back-up infrastructure.

Summary of Audit Objectives Methodology

The objective of this audit was to determine whether proper controls are in place to prevent, detect, and mitigate unauthorized access to the County’s data centers. The audit team assigned to this project interviewed key County staff, requested policies and procedures, toured facilities, and tested physical access.

Overall Observations and Recommendations

As with the prior review completed by Experis, the observations, findings, and recommendations resulting from our review contain sensitive information and are disclosed in a separate, confidential report. We are available to discuss the report with Executive and Legislative officials privately or in closed session.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of IMSD throughout our review process. The Division continues to demonstrate a commitment to address issues noted in the cybersecurity reviews and has already taken steps toward a more secure technology environment for Milwaukee County. Our office will continue to work with IMSD to address items in need of corrective action.

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Jerome J. Heer

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cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Laurie Panella, Chief Information Officer, DAS-IMSD
Brian Dranzik, Director, Department of Transportation
Ismael Bonilla, Director, General Mitchell International Airport
Jeremy Theis, Director, DAS-Facilities Management
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Steven Kreklow, Director of Performance, Strategy & Budget, DAS
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board Staff
Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Coordinator, County Clerk