

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 8, 2019

To: Supervisor James “Luigi” Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit

From: Jennifer L. Folliard, Director of Audits

Subject: Combined Status Report - Audits of Cybersecurity and Controls over Physical Access to Data Centers

In June 2016, we provided an overview of the informational report “Audit of Cybersecurity” (File No. 16-352) to the Committee on Finance and Audit. Due to the confidential nature of the findings and recommendations in the report, our overview was presented in closed session. The work underlying the report was conducted by Experis Finance, Risk Advisory Services (Experis) under a contract with our office.

In January 2017, we presented a separate, informational report, “Cybersecurity Audit: Controls over Physical Access to the County Data Centers” (File No. 17-78) conducted by the Audit Services Division. This report was also discussed in closed session.

Both audit reports set forth a series of recommendations focused on improving internal controls relating to data security at Milwaukee County. A status report describing the Information Management Systems Division’s progress toward implementation of the Experis recommendations was presented in closed session at the Committee’s meeting in December 2016 (File No. 16-699). Subsequent, combined status reports were provided in closed session to the Committee at its meetings in September 2017 and March and September 2018.

In conjunction with its observations associated with its annual audit of the County’s 2017 financial statements, the CPA firm of Baker Tilly offered internal control recommendations. Among the firm’s recommendations was one involving a confidential cybersecurity related matter, which is included in this status report for follow-up.

Due to the detailed and sensitive nature of the individual recommendations, this current status report notes the general progress made toward implementation of the combination of recommendations from both audit reports as well as the Baker Tilly recommendation.

Following is a summary of the progress toward implementation on recommendations reported by IMSD as of January 2019:

Summary: Status of Implementation of Audit Recommendations			
Report	Type of Recommendation	Status	
		Open	Complete
Experis	General (longer term infrastructure)	2	1
Experis	Internal Network Vulnerabilities	2	18
Experis	External Network Vulnerabilities	0	17
Audit Services	Data Center Access Controls	6	4
Baker Tilly	Access Controls from 2017 Report	1	0
Total		11	40

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Based on feedback from IMSD management, efforts are continuing to resolve all open items.

Because of the confidential nature of the information associated with the recommendations, we request that our overview be presented in closed session.

This status report is informational and due to the remaining efforts required to fully implement the open recommendations, we plan to provide the next combined status report for the September 2019 committee cycle.



Jennifer L. Folliard

JLF/PAG/cah

cc: Scott B. Manske, CPA, Milwaukee County Comptroller
Finance and Audit Committee Members
Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Laurie Panella, Chief Information Officer, DAS - IMSD
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board Staff
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Janelle Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, County Clerk's Office
Shanin R. Brown, Committee Coordinator, County Clerk's Office