

## COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

March 5, 2014

The Board of Directors  
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center Management Corporation

We have audited the financial statements of Buffalo Niagara Convention Center Management Corporation (the Center) for the year ended December 31, 2013. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated January 20, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant Audit Practices**

#### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Center are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Center adopted Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2014-05, *Service Concession Arrangements*. Other than ASU 2014-05, no new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2013. We noted no transactions entered into by the Center during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### *Estimates*

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 most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- Collectibility of accounts receivable
- Functional expense allocations

Management's process for determining the above estimates is based on firm concepts and reasonable assumptions of future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Footnote Disclosures*

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most significant disclosures affecting the financial statements are reflected in Note 1 – Governmental Support and Note 2 – Change in Accounting Principle. These disclosures provide information on the Center’s funding and an explanation of the restatement of fixed assets required by ASU 2014-05.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

### **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. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors’ 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 March 5, 2014.

### **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 Center’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors’ 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 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 Center’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

**Other Matters**

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

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

*Lumsden & McCormick, LLP*