

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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# COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

November 12, 2024

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, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated November 12, 2024. Professional standards also require that we advise you of the following information related to our audit.

## Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated February 2, 2024 our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express opinions about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of its respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Center's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Center solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible to communicate significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our comments regarding internal controls and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you.

### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope previously communicated to you in the engagement letter; however, delays were encountered during the performance of the audit.

### **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, and our firm have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

## Qualitative Aspects of the Center's Significant Accounting Practices and Significant Risks

## Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Center are included in Note 1 to each of the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2023. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

### Significant Accounting Estimates and Audit Risk Items

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments. The most sensitive and significant accounting estimates and audit risk items affecting the financial statements and our audits include:

- Collectability of accounts receivable
- Functional expense allocations

Management's estimates of the above are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates above and determined they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

### Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. We evaluated all disclosures in relation to the financial statements as a whole and determined they are reasonable.

### **Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit**

Key general ledger accounts were not reconciled timely which resulted in significant audit difficulties.

## **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audits, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit. We discovered no uncorrected misstatements during our audit.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of out audit procedures. The following material misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures were brought to the attention of, and corrected by, management:

- Adjustments to reconcile operating and payroll cash accounts.
- Adjustments to reconcile accounts receivable and event deposits to supporting detail.
- Adjustment to increase salary expense and related accruals for payroll, vacations and bonuses.
- Adjustments to reconcile accrued service fee to amounts earned but not yet paid out.
- Reclassify revenues from miscellaneous to sales revenues, based on nature of revenue.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Center's financial statements or the auditors' reports. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

### Circumstances that Affect the Form and Content of the Auditors' Report

For purposes of this letter, professional standards require that we communicate any circumstances that affect the form and content of our auditors' report. There were no modifications to the audit opinion.

#### **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the management representation letter dated consistent with the financial statement audit report date.

### **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

### **Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

In the normal course of our professional association with the Center, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, business conditions affecting the Center, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Center's auditors.

### **Additional Information**

With respect to the additional 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 GAAP, the method of preparing the information has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to the audits of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the additional information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare each of the financial statements or to each of the financial statements themselves.

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.

Fymilen & McConmick, LLP