



CITY OF ATLANTA

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June 6, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:


We conducted this performance audit of the city's cybersecurity environments to review whether the city's information security controls align with the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) to strengthen its overall information security program. NIST allows for flexibility in control implementation and is recommended for organizations that are in developmental stages of a cybersecurity risk management plan or attempting to mitigate prior failures or data breaches.

Ransomware is the most common form of cyberattack affecting local governments and has also targeted schools, banks, hospitals, and energy and transportation companies in recent years. According to the White House, the global economic losses from ransomware reached over \$400 million in 2020 and topped \$81 million in the first quarter of 2021.

Our scope included identifying current roles, responsibilities, and processes in place to reduce cybersecurity risks to critical data. The objectives of this audit were:

- Is AIM compliant with NIST framework for protecting the city's Active Directory?
- Is AIM effective in identifying "shadow" information technology infrastructure?

Our findings and recommendations related to the city's information technology security and infrastructure are exempt from public disclosure under GA Code 50-18-72(25)(a)(v). As a result, this letter does not include details of our findings or recommendations. We identified areas that the city should consider for security processes and communicated these to relevant stakeholders in a confidential report. AIM agreed with our findings and recommendations. The City Auditor's Office will follow up on our recommendations to identify the status of implementation. We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation of city staff throughout the audit. The team for this project was Myra Hagley, Ijgayehu Jones, Anijarae Dade, and Zoë Geiger.


Amanda Noble
City Auditor


Danielle Hampton
Chair, Audit Committee