



## CITY OF ATLANTA

City Auditor's Office  
Leslie Ward, City Auditor  
404.330.6452

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### ***Why We Did This Audit***

We undertook this audit to assess the extent to which city officials have taken timely, appropriate corrective action in response to audit findings and recommendations. The city charter requires my office to report on completed audits, major findings, management's corrective actions, and significant findings that have not been fully addressed.

### ***Audit Scope***

We assessed 66 recommendations made to the Departments of Watershed Management and Finance in 14 audit reports issued from March 2004 through April 2009. The recommendations range in age from 17 months to more than five years. The median age is about two and a half years.

### ***What We Recommended***

We make no new recommendations in this report. We encourage the Departments of Finance and Watershed Management to promptly implement recommendations or identify alternative ways to fix the problems the recommendations were intended to address.

For more information regarding this report, please contact Stephanie Jackson at 404.330.6678 or [sjackson@atlantaga.gov](mailto:sjackson@atlantaga.gov).

## ***Performance Audit:***

### **Implementation of Audit Recommendations: Departments of Finance and Watershed Management**

#### ***What We Found***

The Departments of Watershed Management and Finance have implemented 33 of the 66 recommendations we evaluated. The departments have partially implemented another 17 of the recommendations and have told us that they plan to fully implement these recommendations by the end of calendar year 2010. Finally, the departments have yet to implement 16 of the 66 recommendations.

Despite the city's progress, some risks remain. The Department of Finance is responsible for 10 of the 16 unimplemented recommendations. Three of these are of particular concern because they address risks related to non-compliance with state or federal laws. These include practices regarding unclaimed payroll checks and methods to track and accurately report employees' taxable benefits to the IRS. Failure to address these issues could pose risk to the city.

Watershed Management has yet to implement 6 of 16 recommendations. These include reducing the frequency of bills based on estimated water use; reducing and monitoring water loss; developing a small meter maintenance plan that includes periodic site surveys; developing a succession plan for key senior management roles; including mandatory site visits as a condition for bidding construction projects; and summarizing the reasons accounts are uncollectible when submitting write-off legislation.

We plan to follow up on the remaining open recommendations later this year and annually report on implementation status of recommendations going forward.