CITY OF ATLANTA

AMANDA NOBLE
City Auditor
anoble@atlantaga.gov

STEPHANIE JACKSON
Deputy City Auditor
sjackson@atlantaga.gov

CITY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
68 MITCHELL STREET SW, SUITE 12100
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0312
http://www.atlaudit.org
(404) 330-6452
FAX: (404) 658-6077
Report Fraud, Waste, and Abuse 1-800-884-0911

October 2, 2025

Honorable Mayor, City Council President, and members of the City Council:

We are pleased to provide you with a summary of the City Auditor's Office fiscal year 2026 annual audit schedule. Section 2-603 (2) of the Atlanta City Charter requires the city auditor to submit at the beginning of each fiscal year an annual schedule to the Audit Committee for review and comment. The attached tables list work currently in progress and audits we plan to begin in the remainder of fiscal year 2026. The schedule reflects City Council and other stakeholder requests and potential risks identified through a risk assessment workshop with the executives. Information about the FY26 Risk Assessment for Annual Audit Selection can be found on our website.

The Audit Committee selected audit topics considering relevant risks and coverage of city operations. Under the charter, the Audit Committee or the city auditor may amend this schedule if, in our judgment, changes are needed. We or the city auditor, Amanda Noble, would be happy to answer questions about the schedule. Thank you for your continued support of the Audit Committee and the city's independent audit function.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Penovi, Chair City of Atlanta Audit Committee

Attachment

Distribution
Cabinet members
Deputy Commissioners
Judicial agency heads
Ethics Officer

Office of Inspector General
Citizen Review Board
City Council staff
City Auditor's Office
Audit Committee members

Audits in Progress

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Draft to Management
Offboarding	Offboarding—the processes used to separate an employee—can pose security, compliance, and productivity risks. Prior audits have found instances of retired or separated employees with access to city systems or retained equipment. This audit will assess whether offboarding guidance and procedures are sufficient to mitigate risk.	August 28, 2025
Moving Atlanta Forward Infrastructure Program 2025	This will be our third annual review of the $750 million Moving Atlanta Forward infrastructure program, as requested by the City Council in Ordinance #22-O-1369. The audit will continue to assess whether controls are in place to keep projects on budget and on schedule. We will also follow-up on recommendations from our previous reports.	September 3, 2025
Airport Rental Car Operations	The Department of Aviation contracts its (RCC) Rental Car Center operations and maintenance. The department expressed concerns with cleanliness and potential safety hazards in the RCC facility. This audit will assess the department's management of the RCC's operations and maintenance contract, whether the vendor has met contract terms, and whether changes to the contract could improve the department's ability to manage vendor performance.	Mid-Oct 2025
Implementation of Blight Tax	City Council adopted Ordinance #24-O-1370 to impose a "blight tax" equivalent to 25 times the current city general operating levy millage rate on properties that have been "officially identified as maintained in a Blighted condition." Occupied properties that are the primary residence of one or more persons are exempted. The increased tax takes effect January 1st the year after the property is officially identified unless the condition(s) has been remediated during the calendar year. This audit will review the processes put in place to implement the tax, including how properties are identified, how properties are removed, and how funds are allocated.	Late Oct 2025

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Draft to Management
Cybersecurity	AIM (Atlanta Information Management) follows the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Cybersecurity Framework—a compilation of voluntary standards, guidelines, and best practices to manage cybersecurity-related risks. This audit will test selected control activities to assess whether they are working as intended.	Early Nov 2025
Drinking Water and Sewer Capacity Planning	The Atlanta metro area is the 3rd fastest growing in the country, according to census data, with the highest growth rate in the city itself, based on ARC (Atlanta Regional Commission) data. How does the city ensure that its water and sewer infrastructure are sufficient to meet growing demand?	Mid-Jan 2026
Fire Inspections	Media reports have described an increase in fire incidents and raised questions about whether sprinkler systems activated in some fires at large apartment complexes. Our prior audit work flagged financial risks in fire permitting and inspections. This audit will assess whether there are opportunities to improve operational effectiveness	Mid-Feb 2026

Additional Audits Planned to Start

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Start
FY25 Budget Review	In December 2024, the Department of Finance projected a $33M deficit for fiscal year 2025 based on a $51M surplus in revenues but a $84M overrun on expenses. What went wrong? Why did it take until December to sound the alarm? How can the city better manage its spending? The audit will assess the causes of the FY25 budget overrun and evaluate the effectiveness of budgetary controls since put into place.	Early Sep 2025

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Start
Tax Allocation District Follow-Up	Our 2012 audit, *Tax Allocation Districts*, found that neither the city nor its redevelopment agent, Invest Atlanta, systematically tracked progress toward meeting redevelopment plan goals. Without knowing whether or when a redevelopment is complete, the city could continue to subsidize development when public support is no longer needed. The city implemented our recommendations. This audit will evaluate changes since the 2012 audit.	Mid-Oct 2025
Street Resurfacing	According to Atlanta's 2018 Transportation Plan, the city has approximately 1,600 centerline miles of roadways. The plan identified a backlog of 18% of existing pavement in poor or very poor condition. The audit will focus on how the city manages the pavement condition assessment to plan maintenance and how resources are distributed.	Late Oct 2025
Ghost Employees	Ghost employees are individuals listed on payroll who don't actually work for the city. These can include fictitious names, former employees who were never removed, or victims of identity theft. Our prior work on offboarding and paid administrative leave found that employees can fall through the cracks. Are controls in place to prevent and detect ghost employees?	Early Nov 2025
Aviation Concessions	We last audited concessions management at the airport in 2016. Terminal concessions are a significant portion of the department's operating revenue and have increased after a steep drop during COVID. A recent media report identified a concessionaire that owed the city over $4M in unpaid rent, with financial problems starting before the pandemic. The audit will focus on Aviation's controls to monitor concessionaire performance and compliance.	Mid-Jan 2026

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Start
Payment Diversion	Payment diversion is a type of fraud in which a legitimate payment is diverted to an unauthorized account. We've been told of instances of city payments being diverted. This audit will focus on controls in place to prevent diversion and whether they are operating effectively.	Late Jan 2026
ACRB	The Atlanta Citizen Review Board investigates and mediates cases of alleged police misconduct. Councilmembers raised questions about allegations that the office has failed to investigate cases. The executive director explained that ACRB waits until police internal affairs and criminal investigations are closed before beginning its own investigation and cited delays in receiving cases from APD and GBI and staffing issues as reasons for slow progress. What is the process for opening an investigation? Is the process consistent with best practices?	Early Feb 2026
Park Assessment	23-O-1258, adopted June 2023, amended the city charter to increase the parks assessment from half a mill to one mill to provide additional revenue to support city parks and revise the restrictions on its use. Section 4 states: "That the City Auditor shall conduct an audit of any accounts into which any of the proceeds of the park assessment shall be deposited, every five (5) years following the approval of this ordinance." This will be our first audit, which will review how the money is being spent and whether spending complies with code.	Early Feb 2026
Recruitment/Retention	In 2024 and 2025, the Mayor and City Council updated the city's pay plan to be more competitive with market rates and provide a clear path for career progression, provided pay increases, and enhanced retirement benefits for employees previously covered under the hybrid plan. This audit will analyze the potential effects on recruitment and retention, if any, of the city's increased investment in personnel.	Early Mar 2026

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Start
Beltline Special Service District (3rd biennial)	The city created the Beltline Special Service District in 2021 to fund completion of the trail corridor, infrastructure improvements around connectivity, wayfinding, and public safety through a special improvement tax. Ordinance #21-O-0049, which established the district, stated that CDHS would request the City Auditor to do a financial review every two years. Our first review focused on the governance structure and whether the governing entities were setting up adequate controls. Our second review focused on how much money had been collected, how it was spent, and whether key controls were operating effectively. This will be our third review, which will continue to focus on how much money has been collected, how it was spent, and effectiveness of key controls.	Mid-Mar 2026
PnG Reconciliation	We've noted discrepancies between spending recorded in the city's general ledger and the PnG (projects and grants) module, a subsidiary leger used to track project costs. Because decisionmakers rely on detailed cost data pulled from PnG, it should be complete and accurate. The audit will focus on controls to ensure that transactions are recorded accurately.	Late Mar 2026
Moving Atlanta Forward Infrastructure program (4th annual)	This will be our fourth annual review of the $750 million Moving Atlanta Forward infrastructure program, as requested by the City Council in Ordinance #22-O-1369. The audit will continue to assess whether controls designed to keep projects on schedule and on budget are operating as intended. We will also follow-up on the status of recommendations from our previous reports.	Mid-May 2026
APD Asset Forfeiture	Asset forfeiture is used to punish and deter criminal activity by seizing property connected with the criminal activity. There is a potential conflict as the agency responsible for seizing the assets also benefits. This audit will assess whether the Atlanta Police Department has procedures in place to mitigate the risks associated with asset forfeiture.	Late May 2026

Audit Topic	Reason for Audit	Planned Start
Lien Tracking	The city may place a lien on private property to recover costs incurred abating dangerous or nuisance conditions, such as when the city boards up or demolishes a vacant building or cleans litter and mows a vacant lot. How does the city manage the lien process to improve the likelihood of cost recovery?	Early Jun 2026
CIDs	A CID (Community Improvement District) is a defined geographic area where commercial property owners voluntarily agree to pay additional taxes or fees to fund improvements and/or services within the district. Atlanta has several—Buckhead, Midtown Improvement District, Downtown Improvement District, and West End. CIDs are governed by boards elected by commercial property owners in the district, which can shift control over public infrastructure to private interests. If CIDs offer benefits, can they be introduced in other areas of the city? What are the benefits and risks associated with CIDs? How can the risks be mitigated and the benefits shared?	Late Jul 2026