

City of Compton
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August 4, 2020

VIA E-MAIL (GCCSupport@sco.ca.gov) AND U.S. MAIL

Jaclyn McQueen, Manager
CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER
Government Compensation and Administration Section
P.O. Box 942850
Sacramento, CA 94250

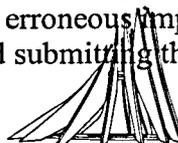
Re: City of Compton—Delinquent Government Compensation in California Report

Dear Ms. McQueen,

I am writing to respond to your July 20, 2020 letter to the Compton City Controller regarding the City of Compton's delinquent Government Compensation in California Report (GCC) for the 2019 calendar year. We recognize that this report was initially due to the State Controller's Office (SCO) in January 2020, and was subsequently extended to April 30; however, due to unforeseen and ill-fated circumstances, the City of Compton ("City") was unable to provide a timely submission.

The City Controller's office has experienced a great deal of turnover within the last few months. From March-July 2020, the office was without a Controller. Moreover, the employment of the City's two Deputy Controllers terminated in April and June 2020. This vacuum of leadership resulted in a lack of direction and oversight, chaos and confusion.

The City hired Sharon Navizadeh as Controller on July 2, 2020, and appointed Jocelyn Logan as Deputy Controller on June 22, 2020. Once they assumed leadership of the office, they began to uncover several critical items that had been left unassigned and incomplete. The completion of the GCC was one of these items, and it was not until July 14, 2020 when this outstanding submission came to the attention of Ms. Logan. Immediately, Ms. Logan began to ascertain what, if anything, had been done to complete the GCC. What she learned was that the former Deputy Controller was under the erroneous impression that the City's outside auditors would be responsible for completing and submitting the GCC, and never confirmed this



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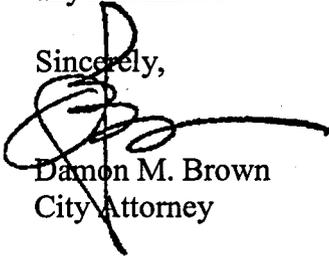
information or followed up to ensure its timely submission. His lack of understanding in this regard resulted in the task being left unassigned within the department.

On July 22, 2020, Deputy City Controller Logan contacted Michael Gungon from the SCO. She determined it would take 4-5 weeks to prepare the report and, accordingly, requested an extension to August 28, 2020 by which to submit the GCC. Mr. Gungon informed Ms. Logan he was not authorized to approve this request, but would note the file accordingly. Ms. Logan confirmed this communication via email and informed my office of these developments.

Since this very recent discovery, completion of the GCC has become a top priority of the City Controller. That office is presently working diligently to provide the most accurate information possible, notwithstanding the absence of a completed audit of the City's 2019 fiscal year. As you know, the COVID-19 global pandemic has had a significant and adverse impact on local agencies throughout the State. The City experienced a significant revenue shortfall and just underwent a significant workforce reduction, which resulted in reduction in staff in the Controller's Office, among other City departments. Compton continues to struggle to provide continuity of services to its residents and to meet its unyielding obligations with fewer employees. While the City recognizes its responsibility to timely submit the GCC, given the circumstances stated herein, we request a waiver of any penalties that would normally be assessed for failing to comply with the April 30 deadline. The assessment of such penalties would only worsen the fiscal damage the City has and continues to experience.

As previously indicated, the Controller's Office believes a realistic deadline for completion of the GCC would be August 28, 2020, and hereby reaffirms its request for an extension, without penalty. Please confirm whether your office is willing to grant this request. I, and the City Controller and Deputy Controller, are available to discuss any concerns or provide any information necessary to consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damon M. Brown", is written over the typed name and title.

Damon M. Brown
City Attorney

Cc: Compton City Council
Sharon Navizadeh, Compton City Controller
Craig J. Cornwell, Compton City Manager