

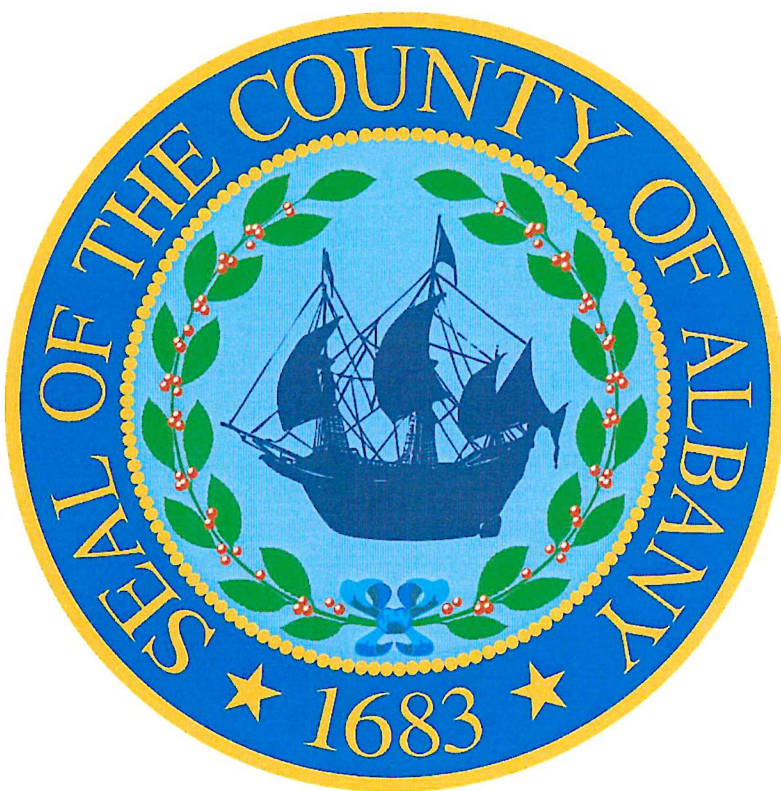
ALBANY COUNTY

Department of Audit and Control

Final Report

MVP Arena Audit

Parking Garage



November 2022

Susan Rizzo, Comptroller

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Stephanie Slominski CIA CFE, Chief Auditor

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Executive Summary

The Albany County Comptroller's Office, Department of Audit and Control (DAC) performed an audit of process and controls related to parking fee collections for the parking garage at the MVP Arena (MVP). For the purpose of testing accounting procedures, the auditors examined financial data from a sample of weeks during in 2021 and 2022.

Background

The Arena is a civic center in Albany, New York with a maximum capacity of 17,500. Since the first performance at the arena in 1990, more than eighteen million patrons have attended sporting events, concerts, and various other types of performances. The parking garage is located adjacent to the MVP on Beaver Street and has an alternate entrance/exit on Market Street.

The garage is operated by an outside firm (SMG). Fees for parking are collected from event attendees with credit/debit cards and Albany County employees (monthly tenants) via payroll deductions. Additionally, certain events have parking included in tier ticket prices. Drivers with a non cash parking pass are issued a paper form that is collected by the attendant upon entry for recording purposes.

Objectives

- Determine if effective controls exist over the collection and reporting of parking proceeds at the Arena, and the reconciliation of accounts; and
- Provide management with recommendations, where appropriate.

Scope

In accordance with the Comptroller's stated¹ duty to "Be the chief fiscal and auditing officer of County..." the DAC periodically performs audits to identify and evaluate the design and effectiveness of controls over financial transactions in all departments. Collection and reporting of funds, oversight of contracts, and adjustments to originally budgeted items can result in errors or possible loss. Controls over these functions should adequately provide reasonable assurance that the events resulting in loss are prevented or detected. The scope of this audit included samples of parking garage transactions from calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Audit work was substantially completed in September, 2022.

¹ Albany County Charter Article 4 §403(b)

Approach

To accomplish these objectives, the DAC performed the following:

- Conducted an interview with the MVP Arena's Director of Finance regarding accounting procedures related to proceeds from parking at events and their correlation to financial statements; and
- Reviewed credit card reports and related records for a judgmentally selected sample of weeks in 2021 and 2022.

Conclusion

During the course of fieldwork, it was discovered that the Contract between Albany County and the operating company, SMG, has been expired for multiple years. Based on communications with the Albany County Law Department, a new contract is being negotiated and will be submitted to the Legislature in the beginning of 2024. A final executed contract is expected during the second quarter of 2024. DAC will follow up in May 2024 to ensure this audit item is resolved and closed.

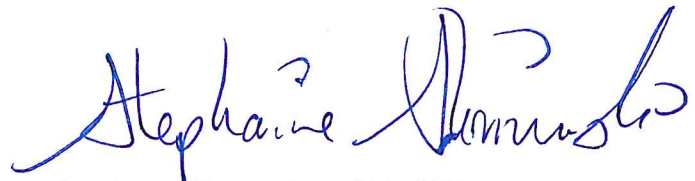
In all other areas reviewed, process and controls at the MVP parking garage appear to be in place and operating effectively. The auditors found that the financial statements, contracts, and bookkeeping records they analyzed contained no irregularities.

We appreciate the cooperation received from the MVP staff in this audit.

Sincerely,



Susan Rizzo,
County Comptroller



Stephanie Slominski ~ CIA CFE
Chief Auditor

Cc: Bob Belber, General Manager, MVP Arena
Jenifer Cioffi, Director of Finance, MVP Arena
Edward Dott, Executive Deputy Comptroller
Frank Commisso, Executive Deputy Comptroller