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*** IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

CITY OF ALBANY OFFICE OF AUDIT AND CONTROL UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE UTILITY FORENSIC AUDIT REPORT

Utility Audit Report Marks Milestone in Albany's Commitment to Optimizing Energy Usage

ALBANY, N.Y. (Nov. 15, 2024) – The City of Albany's Office of Audit and Control has announced the release of its long-awaited Utility Forensic Audit Report. This extensive audit represents a significant milestone in the city's commitment to optimizing utility usage and improving cost efficiency.

The audit's primary objective was to identify cost-reduction opportunities, eliminate billing errors, and ensure contract compliance across all utility services for the City of Albany. The audit aimed to uncover overcharges, obsolete services, and discrepancies while recovering eligible refunds and credits. Additionally, recommendations were made to enhance the city's utility infrastructure by adjusting existing plans, disconnecting nonfunctional lines, and negotiating better contract rates to achieve long-term cost efficiency and improved service quality.

"I want to thank Troy and Banks and the administration for their cooperation throughout this lengthy and thorough audit," said Chief City Auditor Dr. Dorcey Applyrs. "I look forward to working with them to implement our recommendations."

Key Findings of the Utility Forensic Audit by the Office of Audit and Troy & Banks:

- Tax non-compliance: A total of \$8,462 in tax violation credits was identified, with an estimated monthly savings of \$943.
- Tax refunds: Approximately \$13,656 in tax refunds were found and filed with the IRS.
- FirstLight accounts: Monthly savings totaling \$14,000 were identified in FirstLight accounts.
- Verizon accounts: Monthly savings of \$3,638 were identified.
- Estimated annual savings: Totaling \$254,000.
- National Grid overbilling: A total of \$7,757 in credits was identified due to overbilling.
- Unused Verizon wireless lines: For at least three months during the audit period, 99 Verizon wireless lines were inactive.

A copy of the Utility Forensic Audit Report is available on the Office of Audit and Control's website at albanyny.gov. For further information, please contact Imani Ibrahim, administrative assistant, at (518) 434-5023 or via email.