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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

CITY OF ALBANY OFFICE OF AUDIT AND CONTROL UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY AUDIT REPORT

Equity Audit Report Marks Milestone in Albany's Commitment to Addressing Systemic Inequities

ALBANY, N.Y. (March 6, 2024) – The City of Albany’s Office of Audit and Control announced the release of its long-awaited Equity Audit Report. This extensive audit represents a significant milestone in the city's commitment to fostering inclusivity and fairness across all sectors of its community.

The audit's primary objective was to identify institutional policies and practices that could potentially contribute to disparate trends affecting various constituencies, including employees, residents, and current and prospective contractors and vendors.

“This equity audit serves as a crucial first step in identifying systemic inequities that affect our employees, residents and vendors, and in the tracking of the City’s progress toward equity. Promoting equity is vital for fostering a thriving community where all individuals and businesses have an opportunity to contribute and prosper,” said Chief City Auditor Dorcey Applyrs. “I want to thank the administration for cooperating throughout this lengthy and thorough audit and look forward to working with them to implement our recommendations.”

The Office of Audit and Control hosted a news conference earlier in the day Wednesday, March 6 to discuss key findings. Some findings include; at the ward level, there were racial disparities in approvals of residential, commercial, and other permit (e.g., churches, colleges, etc.) applications, there is no formal policy or process for discontinuing and disqualifying contractors who violate MWBE policies and performance agreements, on average, 74% of leadership positions were held by white employees and 73% of leadership positions were held by male employees.

Dr. Applyrs also extended gratitude toward the administration for their unwavering cooperation throughout the audit process, emphasizing a collective commitment to implementing the report's recommendations for tangible progress toward equity.

A copy of the [Equity Audit Report](#) can be found online at the Office of Audit and Controls website by visiting albanyny.gov navigating to the government section and selecting Office of Audit and Control. For inquiries or further information, please contact Xavia Francis, administrative assistant, at (518) 434-5023 or via email at xfrancis@albanyny.gov.

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