

TO: THE COMMON COUNCIL DATE: July 1, 2009

FROM: THE DEPARTMENT OF
AUDIT & CONTROL

SUBJECT: Audit Report –
Erie Basin Marina
2007 Season

We have performed a review of the operation of Erie Basin Marina as managed by the Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets for the 2007 season. The Department oversees the work of a contract vendor, Brand-On Services, Inc. (“Brand-On”). We present here our conclusions, as well as other such findings as we believe are appropriate.

It was the objective of this Audit to review the activities and processes utilized by the Department and Brand-On during the audit period in order to monitor contract compliance, the accuracy of record-keeping and its effect on revenue.

We performed on-site visits to Erie Basin Marina during and after the 2007 season. It is clear that the current vendor has a great deal of control over activities along Buffalo’s waterfront. However, there is a lack of true accountability over what happens at the Marina. As a result, revenue and opportunities to change are being lost to the City.

Our findings and recommendations are explained in greater detail in the attached Audit Report. An exit conference took place on July 1, 2009. To his credit, the current Commissioner has done much to address certain deficiencies during the subsequent season, and is actively addressing other concerns consistent with this report. Still, there may be merit in taking a long hard look at revisiting the contractual basis for operating the Marina.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please feel free to contact the Department of Audit and Control.

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Andrew A. SanFilippo

TITLE: Comptroller

SIGNATURE: _____