



Press Release

Dennis Gallagher Receives Community Leader Award for Establishing Audit Committee

Auditor Lauded for Leadership on Reform

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(Denver) Auditor Dennis Gallagher's work in establishing a more accountable and transparent Audit Committee for Denver has resulted in him being awarded the Community Leader Award from the Denver Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). The award was presented to Gallagher at a luncheon on May 14th, 2008.

"I want to thank Denver AGA for this award and for recognizing the reforms for which we have fought to modernize and streamline the Denver Auditor's Office. The Taxpayers will be well served," Gallagher said in response to the award.

The presentation read that Gallagher received the award "for his continual support of AGA and his work in establishing an Audit Committee for the City of Denver."

Gallagher was given the presentation at the AGA Professional Development Conference. Gallagher opened the conference with his own report on reforms established under his leadership as Auditor: a truly independent audit committee in the city charter; performance auditing powers added to Denver's Charter; and the stipulation that all audits in Denver to be backed up by and performed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Comptroller General of the United States, more commonly known to auditors as "the Yellow Book."

Tim O'Brien, former Colorado State Auditor, and member of Denver's newly independent Audit Committee, said "Gallagher's leadership has been remarkable in negotiating reforms for performance audit powers and the independent audit committee in the Charter. But most importantly, requiring all audits by Charter to follow the guidelines of the Comptroller General of the United States elevates Denver's Auditor to a strong position to bring Denver agencies and administration to heightened accountability for tax dollars spent."

Doug Griffin, President of the Denver Chapter of AGA speaking on behalf of AGA members present, thanked Gallagher for his earlier remarks about reforms in the Denver Auditor's Office. Your presentation "was both informative and entertaining. Your sense of humor, knowledge, years of teaching and political experience bring so much value to a presentation."

Gallagher had long pushed for reform that would result in the establishment of an independent audit committee for the City and County of Denver. That reform took place with a change to Denver's City Charter and the establishment in January of 2008 of a truly independent Audit Committee.

The previous City audit committee lacked independence because all members were appointed by the Mayor and they included employees of the City Administration. That audit committee structure was not aligned with nationally accepted standards and best practices. However, the current Audit Committee is structured in a manner that ensures the independent oversight of City operations, thereby enhancing citizen confidence and avoiding any appearance of a conflict of interest.

The Audit Committee assists the Auditor in the Auditor's oversight responsibilities of the integrity of the City's finances and operations, including the integrity of the City's financial statements.

AGA (which is also often referred to as Advancing Government Accountability) was founded in 1950 and has a long history of being the thought leader for the government accountability profession.