

City Managers 11/19/25 Statement

Mayor, Members of Council, and members of the public, I would like to take a moment to address the letter recently submitted by the Cape Coral Construction Industry Association to state elected officials regarding the City's building department and certain financial and operational concerns. As a result, the City received a subsequent letter from the Joint Legislative Audit Committee indicating they approved a motion to perform an operational audit of the City of Cape Coral's building department.

First, I want to be clear that we take all concerns raised by stakeholders seriously. Letters of this nature warrant careful review, and it is important that we approach them in a manner that is transparent, factual, and consistent with good governance. The issues raised in the letter span several years and involve financial practices, fee allocations, and operational procedures.

Because of that scope, it is essential that any response be based on verified information rather than assumptions or speculation.

To that end, the city has initiated an internal review. This process is being put in place to evaluate the concerns raised, confirm compliance with state law and City policies, and ensure that the public has accurate, reliable information. My intent throughout this process is straightforward: we want to ensure that the facts speak for themselves.

At this time, it would not be appropriate to respond point-by-point to the claims outlined in the letter. Doing so tonight before the internal review is complete risks providing incomplete or inaccurate information. The purpose of the audit is to gather and verify the facts, and we will allow that process to move forward without pre-judgment. Once the independent review is complete, those findings will be made available to Council and to the public.

In the meantime, I want to reassure our residents, our building community, and this Council the City is committed to full transparency. We welcome the independent review, and we believe it is the best way to ensure confidence in the integrity of our financial practices and the operations of the Building

Department. This organization has nothing to gain from speculation and everything to gain from a clear and accurate assessment.

While the audit is underway, the Building Department will continue its normal operations. Permit processing, inspections, and customer service will continue as usual. We remain

committed to delivering consistent service levels and supporting homeowners, builders, and contractors throughout this process.

We will also continue structured communication with our industry partners, including CCCIA, to ensure their concerns are heard and documented, while allowing the audit to proceed independently and without influence. Open communication, when handled appropriately, helps strengthen trust and avoids misunderstandings.

As always, if the audit identifies areas where improvements can be made, we will take corrective action. And if the audit confirms that our practices are sound, we will clearly communicate those findings as well. Accountability and continuous improvement are fundamental values in this organization, and we apply them consistently—whether concerns come from residents, industry groups, or state partners.

I will continue to keep this Council informed as the process moves forward.

When the audit concludes, we will provide a full briefing and publicly share the results in a transparent and accessible format. Our priority is ensuring that the city operates in a manner that is responsible, compliant, and worthy of the trust our residents place in us.

Thank you.