

Mayor, Members of Council, and members of the public, over the past several weeks, we have been working on an exhaustive internal review because of the letter sent from an association in our community representing contractors which contained a series of allegations regarding the operations, finances, and regulatory practices of our Building Division and Building Fund.

As of this evening, City staff have concluded a thorough review of every claim in that letter, and the documentation we have compiled demonstrates that the assertions made are baseless, unsupported, and often the result of fundamental misunderstandings of our internal processes, state law, and standard municipal accounting practices.

It is deeply disappointing that an organization representing licensed professionals in our community would issue a letter of this magnitude without first verifying the facts, seeking clarification, or engaging in even the most basic due diligence. Instead, what has been presented is an assortment of uninformed interpretations, misapplied statutory citations, and inaccurate assumptions—supported by backup material that, frankly, is embarrassing in its incompleteness or lack of connection to the assertions targeted at this organization. I will read a few of the documents presented to the State Representative from our district. These are documents used to support the audit request presented before the audit committee.

The City of Cape Coral maintains rigorous financial controls, adheres to state law, and operates under transparent and auditable processes. When concerns are raised in good faith, we address them in good faith. But when claims are made publicly that could undermine resident confidence, disrupt development activity, and unfairly impugn the integrity of our employees, it is important that we respond swiftly with the facts.

We will be providing a detailed written response that includes the documentation staff have assembled. It will demonstrate the City's compliance with Florida statutes, clarify the purpose and legality of interdepartmental transfers, correct inaccurate financial interpretations, and address each point raised in the letter.

Our commitment remains the same. Providing services to our businesses and residents that are transparent, accountable, and compliant with state law. I hope that moving forward, all stakeholders will choose collaboration over confrontation and accuracy over assumption. The community deserves nothing less.