Denver auditor’s office passes with flying colors in peer review

Author: Adam McCoy - March 27, 2018 - Updated: 14 hours ago

You could say the auditor has become the audited. And Denver Auditor Timothy O’Brien’s office passed with high marks.

As part of a peer review process through a Association of Local Government Auditors’ program, a team of three experienced auditors probed the quality of O’Brien’s office including conducting interviews, assessing the office’s policies, and examining sampled audits among other reviews. The office was found to be in full compliance with government auditing standards.

"I am pleased to receive the confirmation that my office is doing the best possible work on behalf of everyone in Denver," O’Brien said in a statement. "We’re working hard to maintain high standards, so citizens know their tax dollars are spent as accurately and wisely as possible."

The review found that all audits out of O’Brien’s office, from May 2015 to December 2017, were in line with government auditing standards. The office was also praised for the quality of the audits including their wide-ranging topics and innovative techniques used during the review process.

The peer review also touched on the experience of O'Brien’s office which includes 12 certified public accountants; four certified internal auditors; five fraud examiners; three certified global management accountants; four certified information systems auditors; five certified government auditing professional; among other staff with advanced college degrees.

"It's our duty to ensure transparency and clarity of findings and recommendations on behalf of everyone who cares about the future of our city," O’Brien said.

The Denver Auditor's Office serves as an independent check and balance on city government, conducting internal audits and enforcing the city's prevailing wage.

Most recently, the auditor's office found that Denver International Airport was operating oil and gas wells at a big loss.