Denver Auditor’s office finds issue with two concessionaires, also questions parks department oversight

Audit finds improper, unreliable reporting of revenues.

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Companies operating concessions at two Denver facilities are not reporting revenues reliably, according to the auditor’s office.

Pahaska Tepee Concessions, which operates the gift shop and café at the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave; and Flog LLC, which operates at the Willis Case Golf Course, are the two companies in question, Denver Auditor Tim O’Brien said in a news release Thursday.

Both companies have contracts with Denver Parks and Recreation to operate the concessions.

In the Pahaska audit, concerns arose over inaccurate revenue reports, in part, because the company had an unreliable and outdated point-of-sale system leading to estimations being used for gross revenue reporting. The audit found additional issues, including registers recording sales on paper rolls, which can get damaged and be difficult to read.

At Willis Case, similar areas of concern on revenue reporting included how Flog handles discounts and sales tax when selling food and beverages on the golf course, the release stated. The audit team found Flog reports gross revenue after deducting discounts to the city. The audit team called for clearer language in the contract allowing or not allowing this in the gross revenue calculations.

“While the amount of revenues potentially misstated by inadequate accounting practices and outdated point-of-sales systems used by these small concessionaires might not be overwhelming, I think this is evidence of a broader problem with the city’s oversight of concessions contracts,” Auditor O’Brien said. “It’s important for Parks and Recreation to monitor these contracts fully so operators comply with agreements and taxpayers get the revenue they’re owed.”