DIXON HUGHES PLLC
Certified Public Accountants and Advisors

# - Independent Auditors' Report -

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council of the
City of Asheville, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Asheville, North Carolina (the "City"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2007, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these basic financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the City of Asheville ABC Board. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the City of Asheville ABC Board, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. The financial statements of the City of Asheville ABC Board were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Asheville, North Carolina, as of June 30, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



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In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 31, 2007, on our consideration of the City of Asheville's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Accordingly, we express no opinion. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Schedule of Funding Progress and Schedule of Employer Contributions are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit this information and express no opinion thereon.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the City of Asheville, North Carolina. The introductory section, combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and schedules, other supplementary information and the statistical tables, as well as the accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and Sate awards as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual non-major fund financial statement and schedules, other supplementary information and the schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards information have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Dixon Hughes PLLC

October 31, 2007