



Association of Local Government Auditors

March 27, 2026

Riad Ali
City Auditor's Office
900 E Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: 2025 Knighton Award Winner

Dear Riad,

The Association of Local Government Auditors' Awards Program Committee is pleased to announce that the City of Richmond, VA, Office of the City Auditor's report, *Purchasing Cards*, won the 2025 Exemplary Knighton Award in the Large shop category.

ALGA was founded in 1985 to serve auditors who specialize in working with local governments, and our members represent over 300 local government audit organizations across the United States and Canada. As you well know, local government auditors are committed to helping their governments provide services to the public more efficiently and effectively with the limited resources available to them.

To encourage increasing levels of excellence among local government auditors, ALGA created the Knighton Award in 1995 to recognize the best performance audit reports produced by local government audit shops in the previous year. Each year, local government audit organizations, like yours, submit their best performance audit report to be evaluated against four criteria:

- (1) An audit scope that has the potential for significant impact and is responsive to the needs and concerns of decision-makers and/or the public.
- (2) Audit conclusions that are persuasive, logical, and firmly supported by the evidence, which was gathered using appropriate research methods and tools.
- (3) Audit recommendations that are feasible and will make government programs more effective and efficient.
- (4) Audit results that are communicated clearly and concisely.

Judges from peer organizations determined your office's report was among the best of 2025.

The judges commented:

Purchasing Card (P-Card) programs are often considered low risk because of the low-dollar and routine purchases that they support. The Richmond Office of the City Auditor, however, appropriately in their third line of defense role recognized that without the necessary controls P-Cards can be a source of significant risk -



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especially when they are used extensively and across an organization as they are in Richmond. The audit's identification of at least \$5 million in questionable transactions led the judges to agree that the report was both highly impactful and relevant. In addition, conclusions were persuasive, well documented and supported. The report was lengthy, but the communication style was clear and well written. And most importantly, the risks identified were understood by management and in some cases mitigated immediately to address the issues reported.

Congratulations on receiving this award!

Sincerely,

Kathie Harrison,
ALGA President

Michelle J Cleveland,
Awards Program Committee Chair