

Independent Auditors' Report

Members of the City Council
City of Lorain, Ohio

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 City of Lorain, Ohio, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of City of Lorain's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

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 financial statements are free of material misstatement. 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 the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Lorain, as of December 31, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund and the Community Development Fund thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 3, during the year ended December 31, 2003, the City implemented a new financial reporting model, as required by the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 26, 2004 on our consideration of the City of Lorain's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. 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.

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The Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

We conducted our audit to form opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Lorain's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, and statistical tables are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. We subjected the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements. In our opinion, this information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. We did not subject the introductory section and statistical tables to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Cini & Panichi, Inc.

Cleveland, Ohio
July 26, 2004