

March 8, 2006

To: Charter Review Commission
From: Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County Auditor
Subject: Performance Auditor

Attached to this memo is an overview of independence and organizational placement regarding performance auditing as provided to me by Kymber Waltmunson, Performance Auditor.

The performance audit function as set forth in the Charter and the enabling ordinance, SCC 2.700 is a hybrid and does not strictly follow any of the options outlined on the attachment.

In Snohomish County the performance auditor is placed by the Charter in the Auditor's Office (and arm of the Executive branch of government but clearly not the Executive). The performance auditor must have auditing credentials and can only be dismissed for cause and must follow generally accepted accounting/audit procedures. (See Charter Section 3.130). The enabling ordinance, SCC 2.700, sets up the performance audit process and creates a performance audit committee whose role is to advise the performance auditor, to work with the performance auditor and the auditor in establishing the performance audit work plan and to ensure the performance auditor follows the adopted procedures as set forth in the ordinance and policies and procedures as developed by the performance auditor. The performance audit committee has no role in managing the performance auditor (s) or the performance audit budget. Those responsibilities lie with the auditor.

As you can see the performance audit function in Snohomish County is unique in its structure as it does not follow exactly any of the four options (a-d) on the attachment. However, I believe the structure is working well and it is similar to the process in place in Whatcom County. King and Pierce County have their performance audit functions reporting to the county council (option b on the attachment).

Cc: Carolyn Ableman, Chief Deputy
Kymber Waltmunson, Performance Auditor