



MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS
&
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE

Date: September 1, 2017

To: Mississippi Municipal Official

From: Mark Humphreys, Executive Director
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Subject: Energy and Facility Audits on Municipal Infrastructure

Dear Mississippi Municipal Official;

The Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors (MBLPES), working in conjunction with the Mississippi State Board of Architecture (MSBOA), has noticed an increase in the number of audits being performed on municipal infrastructure in hopes of reducing cost or making improvements to facilities or services. We applaud these activities as a potentially viable way of being good stewards of the precious resources with which municipalities are entrusted. A comprehensive review of operations and facilities has the potential of deriving very positive results for the citizens of these communities.

However, it is also coming to our attention that offers to provide these reviews might have been submitted by individuals who may not have the technical or professional expertise to provide comprehensive, detailed, accurate, or appropriate analyses and recommendations upon which to make a valid decision. Further, it has been our observation that some proposals have promised that infrastructure modification can be made with little or no cost for the changes made to the municipality's facilities. It is proposed that savings in operating cost, power cost, or lost revenue can cover these costs. However, the basis of these projected savings can be speculative at best and actually provide little true guarantee or confidence of results.

Therefore, we are writing at this time to strongly suggest that you consider a qualifications-based selection process for all such projects. Much like you would for any project involving public funds, even if from proposed savings, a thorough review of qualifications by those offering such

services should help you develop the confidence you seek in knowing that your decisions are appropriate. Basing such decisions on the promise of savings or increased revenue is tantamount to price-based selection for professional services which, as you already know, has false value and can lead to poor results.

If you should have additional questions regarding this letter, or the issues defined herein, we invite you to contact the MBLPES and MSBOA.