



# 2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR MISSION: WATCHING OUR RESOURCES

The City Auditor’s job is to make sure we receive value for our resources. Our tax dollars, physical infrastructure, facilities, human capital, and public spaces. We have oversight of the decisions the city makes today and provide insight into the decisions the city will make tomorrow.



## BIG WINS THIS YEAR

**Keeping cyclists safe:** Fought for safer streets for bikes and worked with the Common Council to update the traffic code to include violation for blocking a bike lane.

**Firework Fees:** Secured higher fees for fireworks displays so the City doesn’t lose money on safety staff and equipment.

**Streamlined licenses:** Following 2024 licensing audit, secured an update to the City’s entertainment license ordinance to make it simpler for business to follow safety rules

## STANDING UP FOR YOU

**Listening to Syracuse:** We held the first-ever town hall meetings focused on street safety and climate change so we could hear directly from you.

**Standing up for Tenants:** Fought for tenants living in poor conditions to make sure slumlords follow the law.

**Community Service:** Our team spent time volunteering with local groups and helping our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.



## WHAT WE FOUND

**The Living Wage:** City contractors aren’t paying a living wage. We are pushing for a new formula so workers can afford to live in the city they serve.

**Late Payments:** The City was late paying 40% of its bills. We recommended a faster, more organized way to pay so we are a better customer to vendors.

**Sidewalk Cafés:** Many businesses weren’t following the rules for outdoor seating. We’re fixing the permit process to make it fair for all shops.

**Tax Exempt Property Crisis:** When 53% of Syracuse doesn’t pay property tax, including wealthy institutions like the university, that’s wrong. We’ll fight to fix it.



## Our Plan for Next Year

**Lowering the Burden:** We are looking into why 53% of city property doesn’t pay taxes and how that affects services.

**Better Housing:** We will focus on code enforcement, making sure landlords keep apartments safe and clean.

**Public Safety:** We are finding new ways to support our Police and Fire departments so they can keep us safe more efficiently.