

# Performance Auditing and the Arlington County Auditor

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JUNE 6, 2017



# Introduction

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- County Auditor's professional background
- Background of the County Auditor function
  - Code of Virginia § 15.2-709.2.
  - Board Charge adoption and implementation
  - Previous work



# My One History Reference

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“The auditors are to determine whether laws, contracts, policies and procedures have been properly observed and whether all business transactions were conducted in accordance with established policies and with success. In this connection the auditors are to make suggestions for the improvement of existing facilities and procedures, criticisms of contracts with suggestions for improvement, etc.”

-Krupp audit manual **January 1875**

- Effectiveness, efficiency, and compliance



# Performance Audits

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- The County Auditor's primary role is to conduct performance [operational] audits to focus on effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency
- What are performance audits?
  - "Performance audits provide objective analysis to assist management and those charged with governance and oversight in using the information to improve program performance and operations, reduce costs, facilitate decision making by parties with responsibility to oversee or initiate corrective action, and contribute to public accountability." (GAS 2011, 2.10)
- Have a variety of objectives
  - Assessments of program effectiveness, economy, and efficiency
  - internal control
  - compliance
  - prospective analyses
- In compliance with Government Auditing Standards



# The County Auditor

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- Values
  - Independence and Integrity
  - Citizen-Centric - Contributing to Better Outcomes for the Public
  - Collaboration
  - Adding Value
  - Not the “Gotcha Gang”
- Complement to the DMF Internal Audit function
  - Can work on similar things at different levels
- Auditors and IGs
  - Both assess effectiveness and efficiency
  - Auditor generally not a fraud investigator



# Ongoing Work

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- Updating the Board charge
  - Strategic Foundation
  - Roles and Authority of County Auditor
  - Interactions with County Management
  - Role of the Audit Committee
- Developing the FY 2018 Audit Plan
  - Risk Assessment process
  - Audits beginning in June/July

