

Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Honorable Mayor-Commissioner,
City Commissioners and City Manager
City of Clearwater, Florida

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 the City of Clearwater, Florida (the City), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2003, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the financial statements of each of the City's nonmajor governmental, nonmajor enterprise, internal service and fiduciary funds presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining and individual fund financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City'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 of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic 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 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, based on our audit, 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 Clearwater, Florida as of September 30, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each nonmajor governmental, nonmajor enterprise, internal service, and fiduciary fund of the City of Clearwater, Florida as of September 30, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 16, 2004 on our consideration of the City'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.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and the pension plan required supplementary information on pages 3 through 14 and pages 70 through 72 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements. The introductory section and statistical tables are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

The accompanying schedule of federal and state financial assistance for the year ended September 30, 2003 is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, Section 215.97, Florida Statutes and Chapter 10.550 rules of the Auditor General, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Grant Thornton LLP

Tampa, Florida
January 16, 2004