



November 9, 2015

To the Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council and Citizens of the City of Riverside:

It is our pleasure to submit the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the City of Riverside (the City) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

This report consists of management's representations concerning the finances of the City. Consequently, management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of all of the information presented in this report. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, management has established a comprehensive internal control framework that is designed both to protect the City's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the City's financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, internal controls have been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. As management, we assert that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The City's financial statements have been audited by Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP, a firm of certified public accountants. The independent auditor concluded, based on the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unmodified opinion on the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The independent auditor's report is presented as the first component of the financial section of this CAFR.

The independent audit of the financial statements of the City was part of a broader, federally mandated "Single Audit" designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with emphasis on those involving the administration of federal awards. These reports are available in the City's separately issued Single Audit Report.

Management has provided an overall analysis of the financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with this section. The City's MD&A can be found immediately following the independent auditor's report.

Profile of the City of Riverside

The City of Riverside, incorporated on October 11, 1883, is located in the western portion of Riverside County, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. The City currently occupies a land area of 81.507 square miles.

The City operates under the council-manager form of government, with a seven-member council elected by ward for four-year overlapping terms. The mayor is elected at large for a four-year term and is the presiding officer of the Council, but does not have a vote except in the case of a tie. The City Council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk. The City Manager is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the Council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City, and for appointing the heads of various departments. The Council is elected on a non-partisan basis.

The City provides a full range of services which include general government, public safety (police, fire, disaster preparedness and building inspection), construction and maintenance of highways and streets, economic development, culture and recreation, electric, water, airport, refuse, sewer, and senior citizen/handicap transportation. In addition to general City activities, the Council is financially accountable for the Riverside Housing Authority, Riverside Public Financing Authority, Riverside Municipal Improvements Corporation and the Successor Agency, which was formed to hold the assets of the former Redevelopment Agency; therefore, these entities are included as an integral part of the City's financial statements. Additional information on these legally separate entities can be found in note 1 in the Notes to Basic Financial Statements.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for the City's financial planning and control. The City Manager presents the proposed budget to the City Council for review at least thirty-five calendar days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The Council is required to hold public hearings on the proposed budget and to adopt a final budget no later than June 30, which is the close of the City's fiscal year. The appropriated budget is prepared by fund and department. Department heads may make transfers of appropriations within a department. Transfers of appropriations between departments, however, require the approval of the Council. Budget-to-actual comparisons are provided in this report for each individual governmental fund for which an appropriated annual budget has been adopted. For the general fund, this comparison is presented on page 26 as part of the basic financial statements for the governmental funds. For governmental funds other than the general fund, with appropriated annual budgets, this comparison is presented in the governmental fund subsection of this report, which begins on page 75.

Local economy: The City is located in the Inland Empire, which consists of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (the "MSA"). The population of the Inland Empire at approximately 4.2 million is larger than 24 states. The City leads the Inland Empire in most

measures of economic power, including population, income, employment, bank deposits, assessed valuation, office space and college enrollment. The population of the City is 317,307, which places it as the 12th largest in Southern California.

Unemployment in the MSA is currently at 6.5% down from 8.4% for the same period last year with modest improvements in the real estate and home building sectors. The Citywide budget for the fiscal year 2015/2016 remains relatively flat and is balanced.

The MSA is projected to grow in future years because land values continue to remain well below those in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. Among the City's challenges is a lack of available space for manufacturing and industrial development within current boundaries.

Goals and Vision: During fiscal year 2014/2015 the City Council held Strategic Planning Workshops that resulted in the identification of the following seven strategic priorities:

- **Enhanced Customer Service – Improved quality of life**
- **Economic Development – Continue to develop an economically vibrant City**
- **Community Services – Provide appealing, accessible and safe venues**
- **City Transportation Program – Continue to develop efficient transportation systems and provide affordable options for community mobility**
- **Improve Housing Diversity and Options**
- **Improve Teamwork and Communication**
- **Reduce Taxpayer Liability and Reduce Costs Wherever Possible**

As a result of the development of the seven strategic priorities, the Riverside 2.0 Strategic Plan was formed to implement the vision. The purpose of the Riverside 2.0 Strategic Plan is to advance the City of Riverside's mission statement: *The City of Riverside is committed to providing high quality municipal services to ensure safe, inclusive, and livable community.* Additionally, the Riverside 2.0 Strategic Plan is intended to advance *Seizing Our Destiny* which is Riverside's community-driven campaign that builds on the city's existing strengths to create an even better place to live, work and play for future generations. The Seizing Our Destiny Campaign was developed by City officials and civic leaders and encompasses a 20-year strategic vision that mobilizes the skills and resources of a broad cross-section of Riverside toward one common goal – a better community for us all. The goal, or Vision, has four primary aspects for Riverside:

- **Nurture Intelligent Growth**
- **Catalyst for Innovation**
- **Location of Choice**
- **Evolve as a Unified City**

Long-term financial planning. Annually, the City updates a five (5) year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Planned capital expenditures during fiscal years 2015/16 - 2019/20 total approximately \$400 million. The projects encompass all seven Council wards and enhance the life of all residents. Funding comes from multiple sources, including existing funds; bond proceeds, user fees, special tax revenues, and regional, state and federal funds. In addition to routine electric, water, sewer and transportation-related projects, the CIP includes improvements to Parks, Recreation and Community Services projects; railroad-related projects; and municipal buildings and facilities, such as library, police and fire facilities.

Financial policies. A portion of fund balance within the General Fund is set aside and designated for future economic contingencies. The amount that has been set aside is equal to approximately 15% of General Fund expenditures. The City is currently working on establishing a comprehensive fund balance policy with anticipated implementation during fiscal year 2015/2016.

Awards and Acknowledgements

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (Program) to the City for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. This was the twenty-sixth consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award. The City received this award for publishing an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR that satisfied both Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and applicable legal requirements.

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current CAFR continues to meet the Program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA again this year.

Budget Presentation Award: The City received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its annual budget document for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communication device.

The preparation of this report would not have been possible without the efficient and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Finance Department. We would like to express our appreciation to all members of the department who assisted and contributed to its preparation. Credit also must be given to the Mayor and the City Council for their unfailing support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of the City's finances.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent A. Mason
Finance Director/Treasurer