



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2020

**Office of the State Auditor Announces Formation of
Commission on Protecting Privacy and Preventing Discrimination**

Commission will review Banjo engagement and its public safety application

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announced the formation of a Commission on Protecting Privacy and Preventing Discrimination to review the state’s contract with Banjo and its public safety application. The Office has been asked to review that engagement. The circumstances surrounding the contract and the application pose several complex technical and societal issues, including issues of privacy and potential algorithmic bias.

State Auditor John Dougall said, “This newly created Commission is comprised of technical, public policy, business, and public safety experts. It is designed to provide advice regarding the merits of an in-depth review of the state of Utah’s arrangement with Banjo and to help identify the scope of that review. The Commission will also review any associated findings and recommendations. In addition, I hope the Commission will identify actions that governmental entities should take to ensure their software systems protect Utahns’ privacy and prevent discrimination against them.”

Members of the Commission include:

1. Amy Knapp - Vice President, Information Security and Compliance, O.C. Tanner
2. Berton Earnshaw – Machine Learning Fellow, Recursion
3. Daniel Hardman - Chief Architect, Evernym; Sovrin Technical Governance Board; Hyperleger Global Ambassador
4. Suresh Venkatasubramanian - Professor, School of Computing, University of Utah; Board of Directors, ACLU of Utah
5. Jeanetta Williams - President, NAACP Salt Lake Branch
6. David Litvack – Senior Policy Advisor, Salt Lake City Mayor’s Office; former Utah State Representative
7. Sara Jones - CEO, InclusionPro
8. Rosie Rivera - Sheriff, Salt Lake County
9. Todd L. Hixson - Chief of Police, West Bountiful Police Department; Vice President, Utah Chiefs of Police Association

The news release and related information may be found at auditor.utah.gov.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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