



# The Road to Report Branding

- **Branding**
- Color, Graphics, Sidebars, and Headings
- Content
- Usability (Test)
  Summary





### What is "Branding?"



Having a consistent look

Something easily identifiable as yours

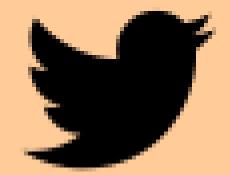
Using logos

### **Easily Identifiable**

Using Logos to Identify you

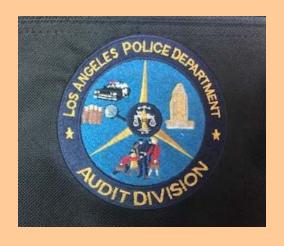


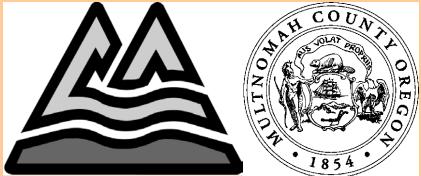












Report Branding – September 2018

### **Benefits of Branding**

- Makes it clear your work comes from you
- Focuses attention where you want it:
  - Report Title
  - Report Contents
- Reinforces your Reputation

### **Some Considerations**

- Department, City, County Standards
- Office Standards
- Users



# Back at the Ranch





### Goal: Develop our "Brand"

### Step 1

Identify official standards and requirements.

### Step 2

Consider the political climate. What does the boss want or like?

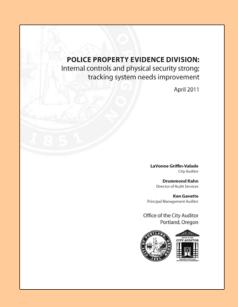
### Step 3

Determine what you could use to identify your work as being from your office

### Step 4

What looks good – what is eye catching?







### Francisco SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY: San Audit of Seven Programs in the Western Addition A-2 of Redevelopment Plan County Sity and December 20, 2011

### **A Consistent Look**

Report covers can catch your eye, and focus on the title and contents

### How do readers read reports?

People are very visual



### How do readers read reports?

 They follow intended and unintended directions



How do readers read reports?

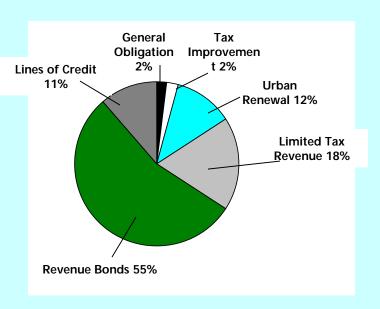
 Can be lead to water (and to audit messages)



## Color, Graphics,

... and Headings

## Color – charts, graphs



- Emphasizing large sections or large concepts, as opposed to small.
- Color can be used online even if not in print.
- Many organizations distribute 50 - 100 times more reports online than in print.

## Color – in the report

### **Status of Recommendations**

DONE	21	Fully implemented
IN PROGRESS	6	In progress or partially implemented
OPEN	14	Unresolved
TBD	10	Pending scheduling

## Color – in the report

### Stop

# Proceed with caution



Go



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### MANAGEMENT LETTER

DATE: April 19, 2011

TO: Metropolitan Kingsounty Councilmembers

FROM: Cheryle A. Broom, King County Auditor

SUBJECT: Follow-up on Implementation of Recommendations from 2009 Performance Audit of

Transit

This memorandum provides the results of a follow-up review of our 2009 Performance Audit of Transit. Recommendations were scheduled for implementation over a three-year period. Although all recommendations are included in this memo, some are not scheduled for implementation until 2012. Overall, Transit has made significant progress toward addressing the recommendations of the 2009 performance audit and capturing the audit's estimated savings. Transit has developed a framework to ensure that implementation of audit recommendations is assigned to the appropriate staff person, the approach to implementation approved, and status monitored regularly by Transit leadership.

### Background

In 2009, the auditor's office completed a comprehensive performance audit of Transit that included six areas of focus: financial and capital planning; service development; staffing, paratransit; vehicle maintenance; and ridership data and emergency communication.

We found that the ways that Transit pursued its mission contributed to higher costs – a situation exacerbated by the fact that in the two years prior to the audit, and continuing today, Transit's economic environment has resulted in dramatically reduced revenues, and in some areas, increased costs. Our audit focused on providing information that would result in cost savings and analyses that decision—makers could utilize when making policy decisions.

### Summary of Findings

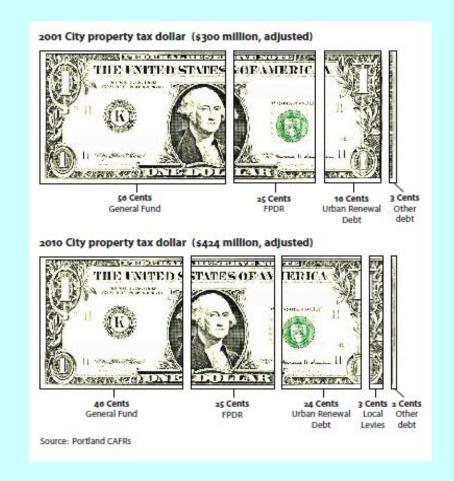
Of the audit recommendations:

DONE	21	have been fully implemented
<b>PROGRESS</b>	6	are in progress or partially implemented
OPEN	14	remain unresolved
	10	are not yet scheduled to be completed

## <u>Graphics</u>

To illustrate the increase of debt for which property tax dollars are expended

City of Portland: 2001 and 2010

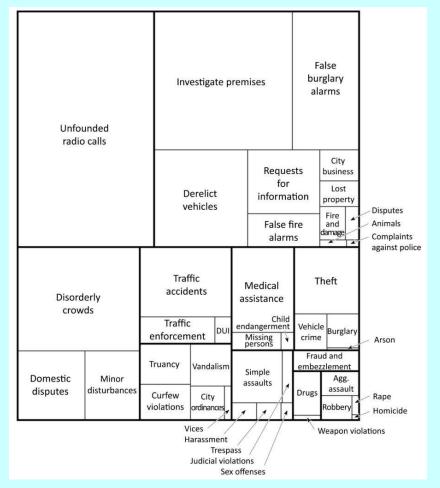


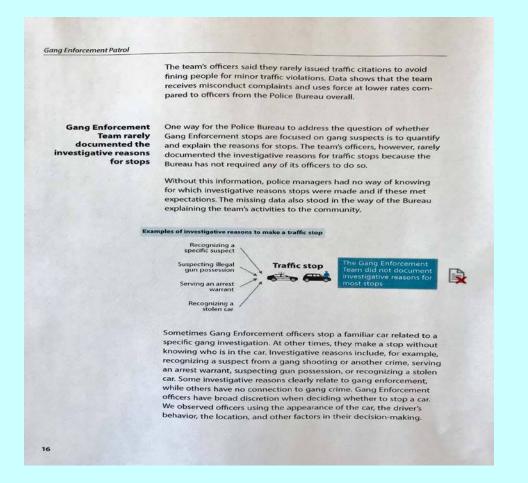
## <u>Graphics</u>

## To illustrate the concept that Policing is a social service.

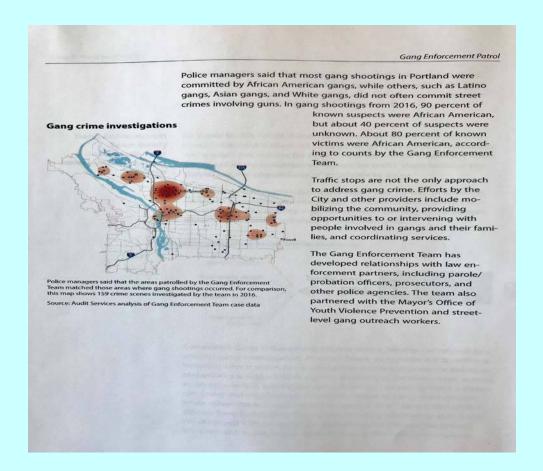
The area of each box represents the volume of incidents in 2015 in the City of Philadelphia (about 1.5m in total) handled by the Philadelphia Police Department.\*

\*Source: Intelligence-Led Policing by Jerry Ratcliffe,





C	Objective and Background 2
Contents	What We Found 3
	Recommendations and Management Response 6
	Scope and Methodology 7
	Cover: Austin Police Department patrol units, July 2018.
Objective	Are City enforcement efforts effectively creating a safe mobility
	environment, and what impact does the level of enforcement have on other city programs and initiatives?
	He magnet begins and the state of the same description of
Background	In an average year, 64 people are killed and many more suffer
	incapacitating injuries in automobile crashes in Austin. <sup>1</sup> According to estimates, accidents cost the City \$700 million in economic and societal
	harm per year between 2014 and 2016. <sup>2</sup> In 2016, the City of Austin
	adopted a Vision Zero Action Plan with the goal of zero deaths and serious
	injuries on Austin roadways by 2025. The plan involves actions by multiple
	departments to help reach that goal. This audit focused on enforcement
	efforts aimed at creating a safer mobility environment in Austin.
	The Austin Police Department (APD) is responsible for enforcement of
	traffic laws on all roadways within the City limits of Austin. In the City's
	fiscal year 2018 budget, APD states that the primary purpose of traffic
	enforcement is to reduce crashes, save lives, and facilitate the safe and efficient mobility of all road users throughout the city.
	Municipal Court resolves traffic citations and red light camera violations.
	Municipal Court collects fines and fees from traffic citations as general



## Headings

## How do readers read reports?

- People read reports the way they read anything
  - Left to right
  - top to bottom
  - bold to non-bold

- Important to less important (what is perceived as)
- Photos, graphics, and other illustrations should enhance not distract

## Headings

## How do readers read reports?

 Can be distracted and may lose the point of the audit





Improvements resulted from 2006 Charter reforms, but significant fiscal challenges remain

June 2011

LaVonne Griffin-Valade City Auditor

> Drummond Kahn **Director of Audit Services**

Kari Guy Senior Management Auditor

> Martha Prinz Management Auditor

Office of the City Auditor Portland, Oregon





**Drummond Kahn** Director of Audit Services

Kari Guy Senior Management Auditor

Martha Prinz Management Auditor

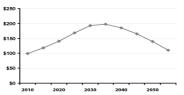
Office of the City Auditor Portland, Oregon

Less unified, attention pulled in different directions

More unified, attention directed to turn into the report



Figure 4 Estimated pay-as-you-go pension costs (millions, not adjusted)



Source: Audit Services' graph of data in FPDR July 2010 Actuarial Valuation (Mercer)

### Retirement system audit recommendations implemented

In July 2008 FPDR staff discovered an error in calculating pension benefits, resulting in overpayments to members of almost \$3 million. After consulting with the Internal Revenue Service, the FPDR Board opted to recover the overpayments from FPDR members. Although not required by the Charter changes, the Board requested a performance audit of the retirement program. FPDR hired an external consultant to complete the assessment of the policies, procedures, and data collection tools used by FPDR. The assessment identified both strengths and weaknesses of the retirement program. The highest risk recommendations focused on FPDR's outdated computer system.

As of January 2011, most of the recommendations in the retirement system assessment had been implemented, with implementation of most of the remaining recommendations tied to the FPDR computer system. In January 2011 the FPDR Board voted to replace the existing database, which FPDR staff stated will resolve the remaining audit recommendations. Disability claims management now professional and independent By shifting claims decisions from the FPDR Board to a qualified Fund Administrator, FPDR's disability claims management process changed considerably. The Fund Administrator hired staff analysts with disability expertise in line with that required to work under Oregon Workers' Compensation standards.

Beneficiaries are now required to appeal FPDR's claims decisions to a Hearings Officer, rather than to the FPDR Board. The Hearings Officer is required by Charter to be a member of the Oregon State Bar with relevant disability training and expertise, and FPDR contracted with State of Oregon Administrative Law Judges to serve in this capacity.

If the disputed claim is not resolved by the Hearings Officer, any subsequent appeals are now heard by an independent panel, which must also consist of members of the Oregon State Bar with relevant disability training and experience.

### Claims processing audits find improvements, although not all issues resolved

The Charter amendment specified that an independent expert in disability systems conduct an initial audit of the disability system within nine months of January 1, 2007, with a subsequent audit to be completed 12 months later. The City hired Marsh, which issued a series of reports in 2008 and 2009. In its reports, Marsh noted that FPDR was unusual in being separate from Workers' Compensation, a point that had been made by other consultants and reviewers in the past.

Marsh conducted an initial baseline audit that identified problems with FPDR's pre-reform disability claims management. Some of the claims Marsh reviewed in this report took place after Charter reforms were in place. Examples of problems were the timeliness of claims decisions, a lack of investigation of claims or focus on costs, a lack of follow-up on outside employment information, and a lack of tracking of third party payments, such as from an insurance company. Marsh also found FPDR's record keeping to be inconsistent and confusing.

Subsequent reports compared FPDR to peer entities and assessed FPDR's compliance with best practices. Marsh noted that FPDR had a very low claim denial rate compared to peer entities and, among

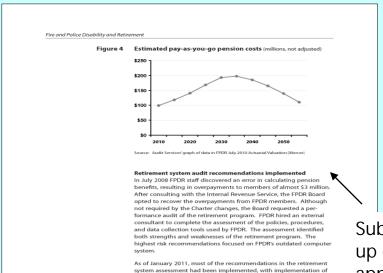
the text by the flushright (ragged left) side head

Readers are

drawn into

12

13



recommendations

most of the remaining recommendations tied to the FPDR computer

ing database, which FPDR staff stated will resolve the remaining audit

system. In January 2011 the FPDR Board voted to replace the exist-

Subheads help break up gray text, and are appropriate next level to the side heads

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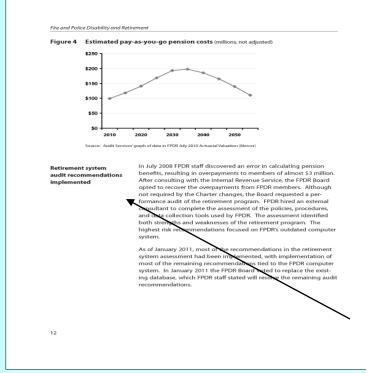
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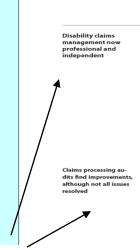
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12

13





Flush left side heads pull attention away, and sub-level sideheads compete with more major headings for By shifting claims decisions from the FPDR Board to a qualified Fund Administrator, FPDR's disability claims management process changed considerably. The Fund Administrator hired staff analysts with disability expertise in line with that required to work under Oregon Workers' Compensation standards.

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13



### Color, Graphics, Sidebars, and Headers

# Back at the Ranch





Goal: Find ways to use Color, Graphics, Sidebars, and Headers

Step 1

Try a few styles for each.

Step 2

Don't worry about cost for online distribution.

Step 3

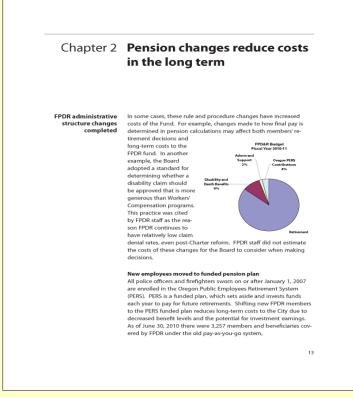
Less is more (don' t overdo).

### Reports should be

- Objective
- Concise
- Scannable

The content of any truly professional report should be objective, concise, and scannable.

### Reader Design: Good



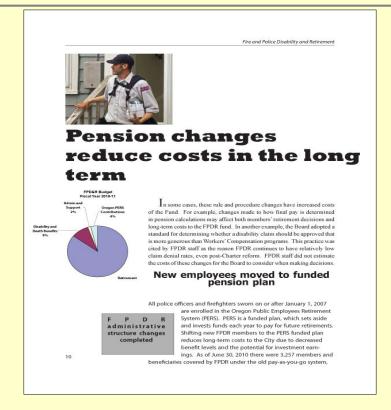
Chapter 2 Pension changes reduce costs in the long term Appropriate size, In some cases, these rule and procedure changes have increased structure changes costs of the Fund. For example, changes made to how final pay is completed determined in pension calculations may affect both members' refont and tirement decisions and long-term costs to the FPDR fund. In another boldness for example, the Board adopted a standard for determining whether a chapter number disability claim should be approved that is more generous than Workers' and title, side Compensation programs. This practice was cited heading, and by FPDR staff as the reason FPDR continues to have relatively low claim subheads denial rates, even post-Charter reform. FPDR staff did not estimate the costs of these changes for the Board to consider when making decisions. New employees moved to funded pension plan All police officers and firefighters sworn on or after January 1, 2007 are enrolled in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). PERS is a funded plan, which sets aside and invests funds each year to pay for future retirements. Shifting new FPDR members Design feels to the PERS funded plan reduces long-term costs to the City due to decreased benefit levels and the potential for investment earnings. As of June 30, 2010 there were 3,257 members and beneficiaries covunified, is easy ered by FPDR under the old pay-as-you-go system. 13 to follow and read, and directs

reader flow

Chapter heading starts you off, leads you to the main (side) heading, then to the subhead

Pie chart enhances, and doesn't distract from other parts of the page

Reader
Design:
Less than
Good...



### Content

Subject of photo Fire and Police Disability and Retirement is looking off the page - directing the reader's eye off the page Pension changes reduce costs in the long Bold headline term grabs attention, but maybe too In some cases, these rule and procedure changes have increased costs of the Fund. For example, changes made to how final pay is determined in pension calculations may affect both members' retirement decisions and much long-term costs to the FPDR fund. In another example, the Board adopted a standard for determining whether a disability claim should be approved that is more generous than Workers' Compensation programs. This practice was cited by FPDR staff as the reason FPDR continues to have relatively low claim denial rates, even post-Charter reform. FPDR staff did not estimate the costs of these changes for the Board to consider when making decisions, Pie chart way out New employees moved to funded pension plan into the margin All police officers and firefighters sworn on or after January 1, 2007 are enrolled in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). PERS is a funded plan, which sets aside administrative and invests funds each year to pay for future retirements. structure changes Shifting new FPDR members to the PERS funded plan completed reduces long-term costs to the City due to decreased Shaded box is benefit levels and the potential for investment earnings. As of June 30, 2010 there were 3,257 members and beneficiaries covered by FPDR under the old pay-as-you-go system, too much, text spacing is a problem Report Branding – September 2018

Where are the margins?

Right hand margin is violated, ▼breaking up continuity

Different fonts. justified and also ragged right and **\_centered** 

#### **OVERALL:**

Too many things going on, all grabbing for attention

### Content

# Where do you want the focus? Select your "Guiding Principles"...

- Optimize for busy decision-makers
- Optimize for online reading
- Provide information just-in-time
- Use color but message accessible in b/w
- Goal less than 15 pages
- Make key points with visuals





### Content

#### Back at the Ranch





Goal: Set Guiding Principles

Step 1

**Gather team** 

Step 2

Determine Guiding Principles options (see prior slide for examples)

Step 3

**Set Guiding Principles** 

Step 4

Draft, refine, test, refine

# <u>Usability</u>

- User-centered design? Not my job.
- We already understand users.
- Users aren't that diverse.

# <u>Usability</u>

#### User behavior challenges:

- How much supporting information?
- What level of technical language?
- Where to make the report available?
- What tone to take in the writing?

# **Usability**

#### **Meeting User expectations**

- Creates efficiency
- Reduces cognitive load
- Satisfying
- Enjoyable

# **Usability**

#### **Usability Test**

Tell user they are required to review this report for their work and provide the report.

- What do they look at first?
- What do they skip?
- What are they most interested in?
- Time the review.
- Ask the user what they took away from the review.





## **Usability**

# Back at the Ranch





#### Step 1

Select "Users" to participate in the Usability Test.

#### Step 2

Administer test to Users one by one.

#### Step 3

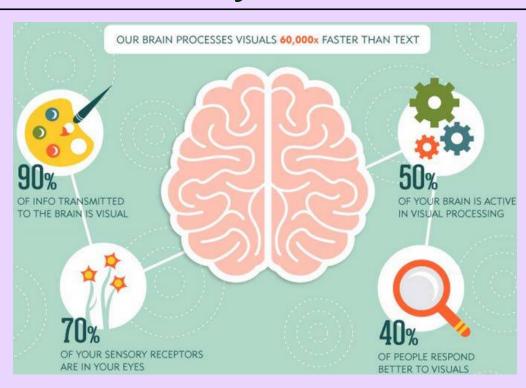
**Observe and Document answers.** 

#### Step 4

Compare results, analyze, and consider design revisions.

## Summary

# Visual Creatures







## Summary

# Back at the Ranch



- Commit Resources
- Identify your Brand / Logos
- Color, Graphics, Sidebars, Headings
- Develop Usability Tests
- Have Fun!



## Summary

### Committing Resources

I have only made this letter longer because I have not had the time to make it shorter.

Blaise Pascal

