

ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

District Court 12-1-02
Dauphin County, Pennsylvania
For the Period
January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013

August 2015



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of the Auditor General
Eugene A. DePasquale • Auditor General



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EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Eileen H. McNulty
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statement of receipts and disbursements (Statement) of District Court 12-1-02, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(c). The District Court's management is responsible for this Statement. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this Statement based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the Statement and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are mandated by Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code* to audit the accounts of each district court to determine whether all moneys collected on behalf of the Commonwealth have been correctly assessed, reported and promptly remitted. *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States include attestation engagements as a separate type of audit. An attestation engagement performed pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards* involves additional standards that exceed the standards provided by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, this attestation engagement complies with both *Government Auditing Standards* and Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*.

In our opinion, the Statement referred to above presents, in all material respects, the operations of the District Court as it pertains to receipts made on behalf of the Commonwealth for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the Statement; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that has a material effect on the Statement. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the Statement is presented in accordance with the criteria described above and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on internal control over reporting on the Statement or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

Our consideration of internal control over reporting on the Statement was for the limited purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Statement is presented in accordance with the criteria described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over reporting on the Statement that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency listed below to be a material weakness.

- Inadequate Internal Controls Over Manual Receipts.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Statement is free from material misstatement, we performed tests of the District Court's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of Statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our engagement, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed the following instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and the District Court and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

We appreciate the courtesy extended by District Court 12-1-02, Dauphin County, to us during the course of our examination. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael B. Kashishian, CPA, CGAP, CFE, Director, Bureau of County Audits, at 717-787-1363.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene A. Depasquale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

May 20, 2015

Eugene A. Depasquale
Auditor General

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DISTRICT COURT 12-1-02
 DAUPHIN COUNTY
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 FOR THE PERIOD
 JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

Receipts:

Department of Transportation	
Title 75 Fines	\$ 225,172
Littering Law Fines	13
Child Restraint Fines	1,393
Department of Revenue Court Costs	447,670
Crime Victims' Compensation Bureau Costs	24,162
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs	17,510
Domestic Violence Costs	6,360
Emergency Medical Service Fines	71,328
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges	224,893
Judicial Computer System Fees	207,767
Access to Justice Fees	56,040
Criminal Justice Enhancement Account Fees	10,238
Judicial Computer Project Surcharges	46,657
Constable Service Surcharges	51,547
Miscellaneous State Fines and Costs	<u>4,183</u>
 Total receipts (Note 2)	 1,394,933
 Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)	 <u>(1,387,071)</u>
 Balance due Commonwealth (District Court) per settled reports (Note 4)	 7,862
 Examination adjustments (Note 5)	 <u>(7,862)</u>
 Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (District Court) for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Notes to the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements are an integral part of this report.

DISTRICT COURT 12-1-02
DAUPHIN COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

1. Criteria

The Statement of Receipts and Disbursements provides a summary of receipts and disbursements by category. The categories and the amounts of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges assessed are based on Pennsylvania laws and regulations.

The Statement was prepared in accordance with reporting requirements prescribed by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Under this method, only the Commonwealth portion of cash receipts and disbursements are presented, revenues are recognized when received, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

2. Receipts

Receipts are comprised of fines, costs, fees, and surcharges collected on behalf of the Commonwealth. These fines, costs, fees, and surcharges represent collections made on traffic, non-traffic, civil, and criminal cases filed with the District Court.

3. Disbursements

Total disbursements are comprised as follows:

District Court checks issued to:

Department of Revenue	<u>\$ 1,387,071</u>
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4. Balance Due Commonwealth (District Court) For The Period January 1, 2009 To December 31, 2013

This balance reflects the summary of monthly transmittal reports as settled by the Department of Revenue.

5. Examination Adjustment

The Department of Revenue posted an adjustment totaling \$7,862 twice in error in September 2011.

6. Magisterial District Judge Serving During Examination Period

Barbara W. Pianka served at District Court 12-1-02 for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013.

DISTRICT COURT 12-1-02
DAUPHIN COUNTY
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

Finding - Inadequate Internal Controls Over Manual Receipts

The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts' (AOPC) policies require computer downtime manual receipts to be issued in the event of a temporary power loss to the district court's computer system. When the computer system is operating again, the computer downtime manual receipt is replaced by an official computer-generated receipt and included in the daily receipts. When the AOPC's policies are not followed, the possibility that funds received by the District Court could be lost or misappropriated increases significantly.

Our examination disclosed that required computer downtime manual receipt procedures were not always followed. We found that 61 unissued manual receipts and the associated logs could not be located and were not available for our examination.

The *Magisterial District Judge Automated Office Clerical Procedures Manual* (Manual) establishes the uniform written internal control policies and procedures for all district courts. The Manual requires that downtime manual receipts be issued in the event of a temporary power loss to the computer system. When the computer system is not operational, the receipt and log sheet should be filled out for each receipt number and the initials of the employee receiving the payment should be documented on the log sheet. The receipts should be used in numerical order; the log sheet should be filled out using the appropriate receipt number; a copy of that receipt should be given to the remitter; and the second copy of the receipt should be kept, along with the associated log, in a secure location. When the computer system is running again, the second copy of the receipt should be attached to the new system-generated receipt and placed in the case file and the date the payment was entered into the system should be documented on the log sheet. Additionally, the Manual requires that when a manual receipt number is issued, the manual receipt number should be entered in the manual receipt number field when creating the computer receipt. This will link the manual receipt to the computer receipt.

Good internal accounting controls ensure that:

- Computer downtime manual receipts are accounted for and maintained.
- Computer downtime manual receipt log sheets are accounted for and maintained.

Adherence to good internal accounting controls and the uniform internal control policies and procedures, as set forth in the Manual, would have ensured that there were adequate internal controls over collections.

DISTRICT COURT 12-1-02
DAUPHIN COUNTY
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

Finding - Inadequate Internal Controls Over Manual Receipts (Continued)

These conditions existed because the district court failed to establish and implement an adequate system of internal controls over computer downtime manual receipts.

Recommendation

We recommend that the district court establish and implement an adequate system of internal controls over computer downtime manual receipts as noted above.

Management's Response

The Magisterial District Judge responded as follows:

The receipts in question were disposed of after consultation with the AOPC. This was a one-time occurrence due to the implementation of the new MDJS System by AOPC. The receipts that were discarded were no longer compatible with the new system and could never be used. This does not show a lack of control over manual receipts. We have a very strict procedure regarding manual receipts.

Auditor's Conclusion

While the receipts in question are no longer compatible, all receipts should be retained until after they have been subject to examination by the Department of the Auditor General. During our next examination we will determine if the office complied with our recommendation.

DISTRICT COURT 12-1-02
DAUPHIN COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Eileen H. McNulty
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable Thomas B. Darr
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

The Honorable Barbara W. Pianka	Magisterial District Judge
The Honorable Jeff Haste	Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Marie E. Rebuck	Controller
Deborah S. Freeman, Esquire	District Court Administrator

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at www.PaAuditor.gov. Media questions about the report can be directed to the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 229 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; via email to: news@PaAuditor.gov.