ATTESTATION ENGAGEMENT

District Court 35-2-01

Mercer County, Pennsylvania

For the Period

January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014

October 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 35-2-01, Mercer County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014, 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, 2012 to December 31, 2014, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

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.

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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control 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. Given these limitations, during our engagement we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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 no 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 the District Court 35-2-01, Mercer 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.

September 17, 2015

Eugene A. DePasquale
Auditor General

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DISTRICT COURT 35-2-01
MERCER COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

Receipts:		
Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	$	182,362
Motor Carrier Road Tax Fines		452
Overweight Fines		5,179
Commercial Driver Fines		218
Littering Law Fines		290
Child Restraint Fines		1,489
Department of Revenue Court Costs		131,092
Crime Victims' Compensation Bureau Costs		26,321
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		18,794
Domestic Violence Costs		6,844
Department of Agriculture Fines		1,175
Emergency Medical Service Fines		39,545
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		122,987
Judicial Computer System Fees		55,236
Access to Justice Fees		16,994
Criminal Justice Enhancement Account Fees		6,337
Judicial Computer Project Surcharges		32,789
Constable Service Surcharges		15,588
Miscellaneous State Fines and Costs		35,616
Total receipts (Note 2)		699,308
Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		(699,308)
Balance due Commonwealth (District Court) per settled reports (Note 4)		-
Examination adjustments		-
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (District Court) for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014	$	-

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

DISTRICT COURT 35-2-01
MERCER COUNTY
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

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	$ 699,308

4. Balance Due Commonwealth (District Court) For The Period January 1, 2012 To December 31, 2014

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

5. Magisterial District Judge Serving During Examination Period

Dennis M. Songer served at District Court 35-2-01 for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.

DISTRICT COURT 35-2-01
MERCER COUNTY
SUMMARY OF PRIOR EXAMINATION RECOMMENDATION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

Summary of Prior Examination Recommendation

During our prior examination we recommended:

- That the district court establish and implement an adequate system of internal controls over computer downtime manual receipts.

During our current examination we noted that the office complied with our recommendation.

DISTRICT COURT 35-2-01
MERCER COUNTY
REPORT DISTRIBUTION
FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014

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 Dennis M. Songer	Magisterial District Judge
The Honorable Brian Beader	Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners
The Honorable Thomas W. Amundsen	Controller
Mr. Peter A. Morin	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.