



DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01

DAUPHIN COUNTY

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD

JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

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**Department of the Auditor General  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0018**

**JACK WAGNER  
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Daniel P. Meuser  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17128

We have examined the accompanying statement of receipts and disbursements (Statement) of District Court 12-2-01, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania (District Court), for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401(c) of *The Fiscal Code*, 72 P.S. § 401(c). This Statement is the responsibility of the District Court's management. 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. An examination includes 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*.

### Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

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 ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with the criteria set forth in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report findings of significant deficiencies in internal control, violations of provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and abuse that are material to the Statement and any fraud and illegal acts that are more than inconsequential that come to our attention during our examination. We are also required to obtain the views of management on those matters. 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 the internal control over reporting on the Statement or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions.

A control deficiency 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 misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District Court's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report data reliably in accordance with the applicable criteria such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the District Court's Statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the District Court's internal control. We consider the deficiency described in the finding below to be a significant deficiency in internal control over the reporting on the Statement:

- Bank Deposit Slips Were Not Validated.

Independent Auditor's Report (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency or combination of significant deficiencies that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the Statement will not be prevented or detected by the District Court's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over reporting on the Statement would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. We consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

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.

April 1, 2011

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General



DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
 DAUPHIN COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
 FOR THE PERIOD  
 JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

Receipts:

Department of Transportation		
Title 75 Fines	\$	486,239
Motor Carrier Road Tax Fines		150
Overweight Fines		5,509
Commercial Driver Fines		500
Littering Law Fines		850
Child Restraint Fines		2,162
Department of Revenue Court Costs		325,882
Crime Victims' Compensation Bureau Costs		41,089
Crime Commission Costs/Victim Witness Services Costs		57,329
Domestic Violence Costs		16,494
Department of Agriculture Fines		25
Emergency Medical Service Fines		136,710
CAT/MCARE Fund Surcharges		425,222
Judicial Computer System Fees		159,816
Access to Justice Fees		39,779
Criminal Justice Enhancement Account Fees		117
Judicial Computer Project Surcharges		533
Constable Service Surcharges		18,712
Miscellaneous State Fines		4,834
		<hr/>
Total receipts (Note 2)	\$	1,721,952
Disbursements to Commonwealth (Note 3)		<hr/> (1,721,952)
Balance due Commonwealth (District Court) per settled reports (Note 4)		-
Examination adjustments		<hr/> -
Adjusted balance due Commonwealth (District Court) for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009	\$	<hr/> <hr/> -

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



DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

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	\$ 1,721,952
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4. Balance Due Commonwealth (District Court) For The Period January 1, 2007 To December 31, 2009

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

5. Magisterial District Judge Serving During Examination Period

Michael J. Smith served at District Court 12-2-01 for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009.

DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

Finding - Bank Deposit Slips Were Not Validated

Our review of the district court's accounting records disclosed that the office copy of the bank deposit slip was not validated, as to the amount of cash deposited, by the bank. For 42 of 45 deposits tested, the district court received a validated receipt from the bank, but this only confirmed the total amount deposited and not the actual make up of the deposit (i.e. cash and check mix).

The district court was not aware of the potential internal control weaknesses caused by not having a validated deposit slip.

Good internal accounting controls require that the amount of each check and the total amount of cash deposited are identified on the deposit slip. The office copy of each deposit should be brought to the bank to be validated.

Without a good system of internal control over funds received by the office, the possibility of funds being lost or misappropriated increases significantly.

In January 2011 the district court took action to correct this situation by having the bank validate the office copy of the deposit slip.

Recommendation

We recommend that the district court continue to secure the bank's validation on the court's copy of the deposit slip.

Management's Response

The Magisterial District Judge responded as follows:

As per our conversation concerning your 2011 audit of our office, I would like to add a comment. As you know, we are quite displeased that a finding was noted in our file concerning the validation of bank deposit slips. We believe that this is unfair due to the fact that this practice was not brought to our attention prior to the audit. On the date that [the auditor was] in our office this year and advised us of this practice, my office manager went to the bank and immediately had them initiate this procedure. It has been followed ever since.

My staff cares very much about doing business properly and responsibly when it comes to handling financial and procedural matters. [The Office Manager] takes

DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

Finding - Bank Deposit Slips Were Not Validated (Continued)

Management's Response (Continued)

great pride in her work and we believe that this finding is not justified. We are requesting the Auditor General to remove it or at least reduce it to an oral comment.

Auditor's Conclusion

This condition was not cited in the prior audit because the office's copy of the deposit slips were validated as to the amount of cash and checks deposited at the bank. The condition, however, has changed since the prior audit.

The condition noted above is a material weakness that, per Government Auditing Standards, must be documented in the examination report.

During our next examination we will determine if the office complied with our recommendation.

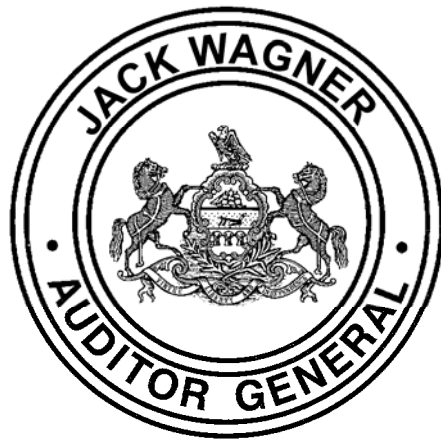
DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
COMMENT  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

Comment - Compliance With Prior Examination Recommendation

During our prior examination, we recommended:

- That the office take measures to ensure that monies are not dropped off after hours and on weekends in the mail slot in the door of the district court. If monies are accepted after hours, the court should install a locked, secured, drop-off box, which can only be accessed by authorized personnel. Additionally, the court should notify defendants that only checks will be accepted in the drop-off box.

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



DISTRICT COURT 12-2-01  
DAUPHIN COUNTY  
REPORT DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

This report was initially distributed to:

The Honorable Daniel P. Meuser  
Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

The Honorable Zygmunt Pines  
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania  
Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

The Honorable Michael J. Smith	Magisterial District Judge
Carolyn Crandall Thompson, Esquire	Court Administrator
The Honorable Marie E. Rebuck	Controller
The Honorable Jeff Haste	Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. To view this report online or to contact the Department of the Auditor General, please access our web site at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us).