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2023

Travis County Auditor's Office Review of Travis County Sheriff's Office Forfeited Property Accounts

Travis County Auditor's Office
Risk Evaluation and
Consulting Division

February 6, 2023

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TRAVIS COUNTY
AUDITOR'S OFFICE

PATTI SMITH, CPA
COUNTY AUDITOR

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To: Sally Hernandez
Travis County Sheriff

From: Patti Smith, CPA
Travis County Auditor

Date: February 6, 2023

Subject: Forfeited Property Accounts examination

Scheduled as part of our statutory requirements, the Risk Evaluation and Consulting (REC) Division of the Travis County Auditor's Office has completed an examination of the Forfeited Property Accounts (FPA) maintained by the Travis County Sheriff's Office. We conducted our examination in accordance with the applicable statutes governing the County Auditor's Office, and those relating to County financial and accounting protocols. As a result of our examination, we are providing this report on our findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Sheriff's Office serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the County, with jurisdiction on civil and criminal cases. In some of these cases, assets are seized from accused parties, and these assets are held in escrow until the case is settled. Depending on the ruling in the case, the Sheriff's Office may receive a portion of these seized funds under the applicable state and federal forfeited property laws or interlocal agreements. The Sheriff's Office may use these funds (under certain restrictions) in future efforts to investigate criminal activity.

METHODOLOGY

Our review methodology was based on applying sampling procedures to office records and on verbal and written representations from the Sheriff's Office. Sampling relates to examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial records and statements. The use of sampling techniques would not necessarily disclose all matters in the FPA financial statements, records, and controls that might signify material weaknesses or misstatements. Regarding the written and verbal representations made by this office, unless otherwise noted in

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this report, office management maintains that the assertions we relied upon in the examination were correct to the best of their knowledge.

SCOPE

This examination included an assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the overall system of financial controls in place for the Sheriff Office's Forfeited Property Accounts during the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. This encompassed examinations of the overall internal controls in place with respect to compliance with state guidelines, and deposits and disbursements of forfeited funds, including any accrued interest.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No significant findings were noted during this examination.

ATTACHMENT

Copies of this office's FPA financial statements for September 30, 2022, are provided in Attachment A. These statements include a detailed statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance, and a balance sheet for the forfeited property account. In addition, a statement of fiduciary assets and liabilities for the escrow account is included in the attachment. The purpose of presenting these statements is to provide feedback to Travis County officials. These financial statements have not yet been audited by Travis County's external auditors.

EXAMINATION TEAM

Lisa Denton, Financial Analyst VI
Travis Lee, Staff Auditor
Frank Williams, Staff Auditor

CLOSING

This report is intended solely for the information and use of your office and the Commissioners Court. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance received from the management and staff of the Travis County Sheriff's Office during this examination. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.

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David Jungerman
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David Jungerman, CIA
Chief Assistant County Auditor II
Risk Evaluation & Consulting Division

DocuSigned by:
Patti Smith
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Patti Smith, CPA
Travis County Auditor

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

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Meredith Sansoucy, Financial Manager, Travis County Sheriff's Office
Travis County Executive Managers
Managers, Travis County Auditor's Office
Examination File

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Travis County Sheriff's Office
Consolidated Forfeited Property Accounts
Special Revenue Fund
Balance Sheet
September 30, 2022

Assets

Cash	$	69,136
Other receivables		-
Total assets	$	69,136

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Liabilities:		
Due to other funds	$	-
Other liabilities		-
Total liabilities		-
Fund balance:		
Reserved for encumbrances		-
Undesignated		-
Total fund balance		69,136
Total liabilities and fund balance	$	69,136

NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement will be audited by Travis County's external auditors.

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Travis County Sheriff's Office
Consolidated Forfeited Property Account
Special Revenue Fund
Detailed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
For the Year Ended September 30, 2022

Revenues:		
Fines and forfeitures	$	20,150
Interest income		130
Other income		-
Total revenues		20,280
Expenditures:		
Current:		
Supplies		3,372
Other charges		56,105
Capital outlay		-
Total expenditures		59,477
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures		(39,197)
Other financing sources (uses):		
Transfers in		-
Transfers out		-
Total other financing sources (uses)		-
Net change in fund balance		(39,197)
Fund balance - beginning of year		108,333
Fund balance - end of year	$	69,136

NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement will be audited by Travis County's external auditors.

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Travis County Sheriff's Office
Forfeited Property Escrow Account
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities
Balance Sheet
September 30, 2022

Assets		
Cash	$	294,379
Total assets		294,379
Liabilities		
Other liabilities		294,379
Total liabilities		294,379
Net Assets	$	-

NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement will be audited by Travis County's external auditors.