



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**ASHTABULA COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE _____ **PAGE**

Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures..... 1

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Executive Committee
Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ashtabula County
Austinburg, Ohio

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the management of the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau (the Bureau) agreed, solely to assist the Bureau in evaluating whether it recorded all lodging taxes it received from Ashtabula County, and to help evaluate whether the Bureau disbursed these lodging taxes for allowable purposes described below for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012. The Bureau is responsible for disbursing lodging taxes for allowable purposes. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' attestation standards and applicable attestation engagement standards included in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the Bureau. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

Cash Receipts

1. We confirmed with Ashtabula County the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012. The County confirmed the following amounts:

Year Ended	Amount
December 31, 2013	\$432,826
December 31, 2012	\$369,682

We compared the amounts from step 1 to amounts recorded as lodging tax receipts on the Bureau's cash receipts journal. We found no exceptions.

Cash Disbursements

1. We inquired of management regarding sources describing allowable purposes or restrictions related to the Bureau's disbursements of lodging taxes. We listed these sources and summarized significant related restrictions below:

Source of Restrictions

- a. The Bureau's Articles of Incorporation
- b. The Bureau's 501(c)(6) Tax Exemption
- c. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2)

The Bureau's tax exemption prohibits it from disbursements supporting a candidate's election.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2) restricts the Bureau to spending lodging tax "specifically for promotion, advertising, and marketing of the region in which the county is located."

Auditor of State Bulletin 2003-005 deems any disbursement of public funds (e.g. lodging taxes) for alcohol to be improper.

2. We haphazardly selected forty five disbursements of lodging taxes from the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 in addition to all disbursements exceeding \$3,000, and compared the purpose for these disbursements as documented on vendor invoices or other supporting documentation to the sources of restrictions listed in *Cash Disbursements Step 1* above. We found no instances where the purpose described on the invoice or other supporting documentation described a violation the restrictions listed above.

We were not engaged to, and did not examine the Bureau's lodging tax receipts and disbursements for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, the objective of which would have been to opine on lodging tax receipts and disbursements. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that we would have reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Bureau and is not intended to be, and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

April 2, 2014



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

ASHTABULA COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU

ASHTABULA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED
APRIL 15, 2014