



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Trustees
Sandusky County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Sandusky County
712 North Street, Suite 102
Fremont, Ohio 43420-1198

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the management of Sandusky County Convention and Visitors Bureau (the Bureau), Sandusky County, Ohio agreed, solely to assist the Bureau in evaluating whether it recorded all lodging taxes it received from Sandusky County, City of Fremont, and Sandusky Township 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 Sandusky County, City of Fremont, and Sandusky Township the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012. The County, Municipality, and Township confirmed the following amounts:

| Year Ended | Amount |
|-------------------|--------------|
| December 31, 2013 | \$278,932.14 |
| December 31, 2012 | \$251,142.20 |

2. We compared the amounts from step 1 to amounts recorded as lodging tax receipts on the Bureau's Transaction Detail by Account report. 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. Sandusky County Resolution 1989-0541 dated July 6, 1989
- d. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2)
- e. City of Fremont Ordinance 2002-3247 dated May 16, 2002

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.

Sandusky County Resolution 1989-0541 dated July 6, 1989 permits the Bureau to spend lodging taxes in order to bring the patronage of business and tourists and cultural, educational, religious, professional and sports organizations to the County.

City of Fremont Ordinance 2002-3247 dated May 16, 2002 permits the Bureau to spend lodging taxes in order to bring patronage of business and tourists and cultural, educational, religious, professional, and sports organizations to the City.

2. We haphazardly selected forty disbursements of lodging taxes from the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 in addition to all disbursements exceeding \$1,000, 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 of 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.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 15, 2014



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SANDUSKY COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

SANDUSKY 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
JUNE 3, 2014**