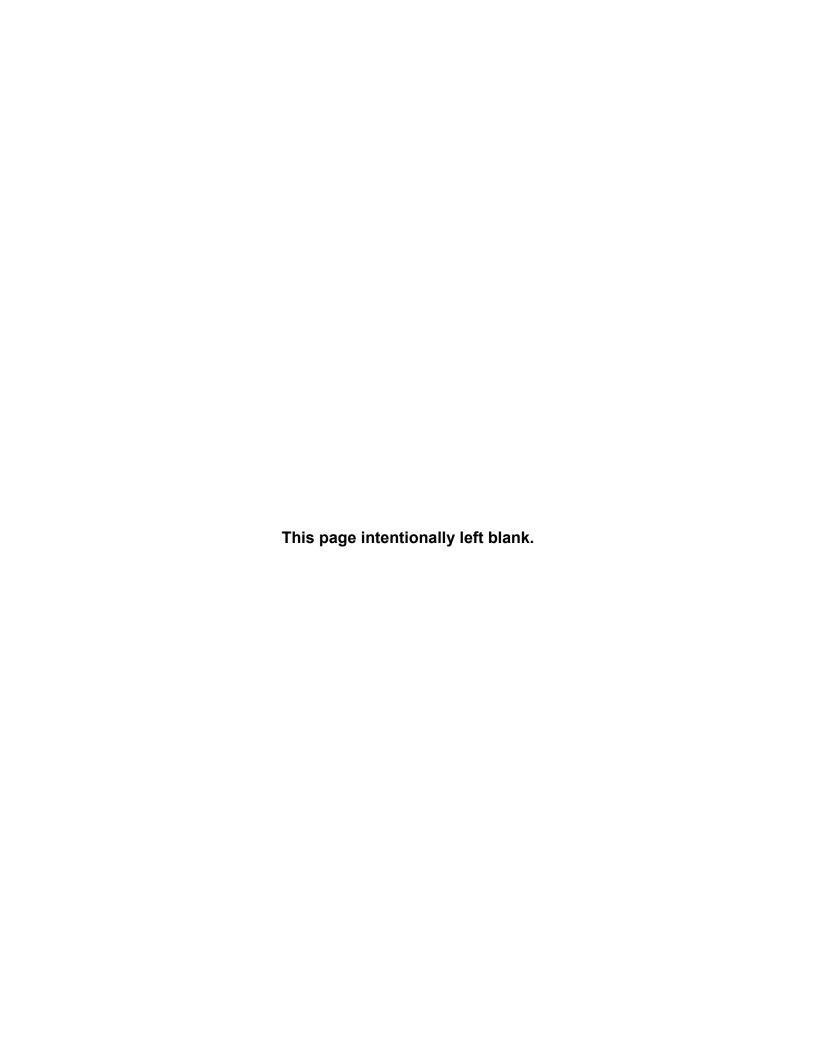




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### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission Hamilton County 2492 Commodity Circle Sharonville, Ohio 45241

#### To the Commission:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission, Hamilton County, Ohio (the Commission), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Commission prepares its financial statements on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined assets, liabilities and, fund balances of the Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission, Hamilton County, Ohio as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the revenues it received and expenses paid for the years then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1B.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 19, 2003 on our consideration of the Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The supplementary schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. We subjected this information to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements. In our opinion, it is fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission Hamilton County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, the Commission and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

**Betty Montgomery** Auditor of State

Butty Montgomery

September 19, 2003

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

	2002	2001
ASSETS: Current assets: Cash	\$918,665	\$778,951
Inventory - video tapes	20,000	20,000
Total Current Assets	938,665	798,951
Property and equipment: Office equipment and furniture Video equipment Van (2) fully equipped with video equipment Government access equipment and improvement Building Building improvements Playback equipment and studio	166,190 787,023 229,091 87,626 254,280 289,619 615,269	156,500 767,573 225,910 0 254,280 230,518 552,510
Total property and equipment	2,429,098	2,187,291
Less: accumulated depreciation	1,044,041	899,489
Net property and equipment	1,385,057	1,287,802
Other assets: Deposits	77	77_
Total Assets	\$2,323,799	\$2,086,830
LIABILTIES AND FUND BALANCE Current liabilities: PERS withheld and accrued	\$0	\$4,872
Current portion of obligations under sublease-purchase agreement	24,026	22,715
Total current liabilities	24,026	27,587
Long term liabilities: Obligation under sublease-purchase agreement	25,413	49,439
Total long term liabilities	25,413	49,439
Total liabilties	49,439	77,026
Retained Earnings	2,274,360	2,009,804
Total liabilties and fund balance	\$2,323,799	\$2,086,830

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS - ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

	2002	2001
REVENUE: Member support: Franchise fees	\$961,956	\$768,325
		·
Total member support	961,956	768,325
Other revenue: Interest Tape sales and dub fees Other	12,344 5,531 23,690	24,294 0 2,419
Total other revenue	41,565	26,713
Total revenue	1,003,521	795,038
EXPENSES: Program services: Financial and material assistance Member intervention Community involvement	170,129 100,710 289,748	153,157 96,977 260,592
Total program services	560,587	510,726
Supporting services: Management and general	178,377	169,991
Other expenses: Assets Contributed to Member Community	0	33,454
Total expenses	738,965	714,171
Excess of revenue over expenses	264,556	80,867
Retained Earnings, January 1	2,009,804	1,928,937
Retained Earnings, December 31	\$2,274,360	\$2,009,804

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## A. Description of the Entity

The Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission, Hamilton County, Ohio (the Commission), is a Regional Council of Governments, organized under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Commission is composed of 29 member communities, each of which is a political subdivision. As the agent for the participating communities, the Commission was established to foster cooperation through a central administration for the purpose of administering cable television franchises and for the purpose of stimulating and supporting the use of public and local access including the various institutional and educational networks on behalf of each political subdivision and its school district.

The Commission's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Commission is financially accountable.

### **B.** Basis of Accounting

These financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in conformity with the modified cash basis method of accounting. This method is a mixture of the cash basis and the accrual basis. Expenses having an economic life of more than one year are capitalized as assets and depreciated over future years. Pension obligations are treated as expenses when due. The Commission capitalizes videotape inventory and records liabilities for pension payments owed to PERS and for capitalized lease obligations. Other payments are recorded as expenses when disbursed in cash. Revenue is recorded when received in cash.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

### C. Cash and Deposits

Certificates of deposit are valued at cost.

### D. Fund Accounting

In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Commission, its accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. The assets, liabilities, and fund balances of the Commission are maintained internally by the following enterprise funds, but are reporting in a combined statement format.

# 1. Operating Fund

The Operating Fund includes unrestricted expendable resources that are available to support the Commission's general operations.

### 2. Equipment Fund

The Equipment Fund consists of the net investment in fixed assets. The purpose of this fund is to acquire the equipment needed to produce quality programs in the studio and on location within the communities.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### 3. Grant Fund

The Grant Fund is used by the Commission to provide funds for the purchase of technical equipment so the schools within the member communities can produce programming intended to be cablecast on the educational access channel(s) of the cable system. The equipment remains the property of the Commission and is capitalized as an asset and depreciated. Repairs and maintenance for the equipment are the responsibility of the awarded school district.

#### E. Tape Inventory

The Commission maintains an inventory of video tapes for use by the member communities. Video tapes are used to televise programs produced throughout the Commission. The tapes are disposed of when management determines that its quality is insufficient for viewing on cable television. These tapes are given to schools within the member communities for use in the classrooms. The basis for presenting the video tape inventory is an estimate based on the lower of cost or market.

#### F. Donated Services

No amounts have been reported on the financial statements for donated services because no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services. Volunteers assist in the filming and editing of their own community programs.

### G. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets. Repairs and maintenance are recorded as expenses.

Estimated useful lives of various classes of fixed assets are as follows:

Equipment 5 – 15 years Building and Building Improvements 20 – 40 years

### H. Expenses

Expenses are presented as program services and supporting services. Program service expenses are presented as financial and material assistance, member intervention, and community involvement.

#### 1. Financial and Material Assistance

Included in these expenses are the purchase, upkeep, and storage of equipment.

#### 2. Member Intervention

Included in these expenses are the administration and supervision of the franchising cable company as described below. The Commission conducts five year cable company reviews of performance as it relates to the granted franchise within the communities. The Commission also advises communities on legal issues, mergers, and other new developments as they occur.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### 3. Community Involvement

These expenses involve various types of interaction with the residents of member communities including newsletters, a variety of program productions ranging from sporting and cultural activities to election coverage, training in the use of equipment, school equipment grants, and other activities.

# 4. Supporting Expenses

Included in these expenses is the maintenance of offices at the Commission, billing and accounting, secretarial, and other administrative expenses.

### I. Compensated Absences

The Commission has established the following sick and vacation policies for full-time salaried employees:

Full-time employees accumulate five days of vacation after the first year worked. After eight years of continuous employment, employees accumulate three regular work weeks of vacation time. After fourteen years of continuous employment, employees accumulate four regular work weeks of vacation time. After eighteen years of continuous employment, employees accumulate five regular work weeks of vacation time. All employees must take their vacation within the calendar year. Unused vacation time will not be accumulated.

A regular full-time employee receives 2.46 hours of sick pay for each completed month of service. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to a maximum of 90 sick days (180 days for those hired prior to the acceptance of these policies) will be payable at 100% of pay.

### J. Capital Lease

Capital lease obligations are recorded at the present value of the future minimum lease payments discounted at the interest implicit in each lease. A corresponding amount is capitalized as the value of the asset and depreciated over its estimated useful life.

# 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The Commission maintains a cash pool used by all funds. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2002	2001
Demand deposits	\$818,665	\$678,951
Certificates of deposit	100,000	100,000
Total deposits	918,665	778,951

**Deposits:** Deposits are either (1) insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, or (2) collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

At December 31, 2002 and 2001, the bank balance of deposits were \$835,353 and \$692,649, respectively. The bank balance was covered entirely by federal depository insurance and pooled collateral.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Various restrictions on deposits are imposed by statutes. All deposits with financial institutions must be collateralized in an amount equal to 100% of uninsured deposits. The collateral must be held by a qualified trustee as defined by state law.

### 3. CAPITAL LEASE: SUBLEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT

The Commission entered into a sublease-purchase agreement on November 2, 1994 to buy the building at 2492 Commodity, Circle, Sharonville, Ohio. The Commission had previously leased the premises since August, 1990. Fifth Third Bank purchased the property with the intention of selling to the Commission though a lease-purchase agreement. To facilitate financing, the City of Sharonville agreed to lease-purchase the building from Fifth Third Bank with the intention of entering into a sublease-purchase agreement with the Commission.

The principal balance under the Agreement was \$200,000. The payment terms are a schedule of forty payments over a ten year period with the first quarterly payment made on January 1, 1995. Interest accrues from October 1, 1994. The interest rate shall be 5.65% per annum.

Payments related to this sublease-purchase agreement during the years 2002 and 2001 were \$26,316 and \$19,737, including principal of \$22,715 and \$16,219 and interest of \$3,601 and \$3,518, respectively. The future minimum sublease payments are as follows:

2003	<u>Payment</u> \$26,316
2004	<u>26,316</u>
Total	\$52,632
Amount representing interest	(3,193)
Present value of minimum lease payments	<u>\$88,374</u>

### 4. FRANCHISE FEE RECEIPTS

The franchise fees are received from one major franchisee. Per the franchise agreement with the cable company providing services in the area, the participating communities receive five percent (5%) of the franchisee's gross receipts of which two percent (2%) is allocated to fund the Commission. The Commission recognizes revenue when received. All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use.

#### 5. RETIREMENT COMMITMENTS

The Commission's employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, including post-retirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The Commission contributed an amount equal to 13.54% of participants' gross salaries for 2002 and 2001. The Commission owed \$4,872 in accrued PERS contributions and withholdings as of December 31, 2001. This amount was included as a liability on the financial statements and was paid in 2002.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001 (Continued)

# 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Commission has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability
- Vehicles
- Errors and omissions

The Commission also provides health insurance coverage to full-time employees through a private carrier.

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## SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

**Program Services** Total Financial and Material Supporting ΑII Member Community Funds Assistance Intervention Involvement Services Salaries \$37,029 \$108,108 \$96,832 \$316,754 \$74,786 Employee health and retirement benefits 7,955 23,226 20,804 68,053 16,067 Payroll taxes 1,235 3,620 423 855 1,107 91,708 132,570 Total salaries and related expenses 45,407 118,742 388,427 Mileage and travel expense 274 274 1,641 547 2,736 Education and seminars 2,287 2,288 2,288 9,150 2,287 Utilities and building upkeep costs 7,655 15,310 15,310 38,275 Telephone 241 1,444 1,203 1,925 4,813 Office supplies 7,220 7,220 Equipment repairs 521 1,737 1,042 174 Equipment rentals 383 765 2,679 3,827 Postage and delivery 9,217 460 5,531 3,226 Newsletter/annual report 615 615 Professional fees: Accounting and audit 2,945 2,945 2,274 Legal fees 2,274 Dues and subscriptions 254 254 381 381 1,270 Van equipment repair and upkeep 4,709 4,709 9,418 Insurance - liability 16,376 8,188 8,188 Video supplies 2,265 15,856 18,121 Video tape expense 10,030 5,015 5,015 Promotional/meetings expense 19,501 3,900 3,900 5,850 5,851 Production helper expense 44,859 44,859 Interest expense 2,161 1,080 360 3,601 100,710 83,398 246,382 163,922 Total expenses before depreciation 594,412 Depreciation expense 86,731 43,366 14,455 144,552 Total expenses \$170,129 \$100,710 \$289,748 \$178,377 \$738,964

# SCHEDULE OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

**Program Services** Total Financial and Material Member Community Supporting Other ΑII Intervention Assistance Involvement Services Expenses Funds \$296,100 \$34,614 \$69,909 \$101,059 \$90,518 Salaries Employee health and retirement benefits 8,177 16,515 23,873 21,383 69,948 409 1,070 3,499 Payroll taxes 826 1,194 Total salaries and related expenses 43,200 87,250 126,126 112,970 369,546 14,134 Mileage and travel expense 1,413 1,413 8,481 2,827 Education and seminars 1,571 1,571 1,571 1,571 6,284 Utilities and building upkeep costs 6,729 16,823 3,365 6,729 1,417 Telephone 282 1,701 2,268 5,668 Office supplies 6,036 6,036 Equipment repairs 3,269 1,634 545 5,448 1,466 Equipment rentals 732 5,130 7,328 Postage and delivery 414 4,962 2,894 8,270 Newsletter/annual report 5,620 5,620 Professional fees: 7,867 Accounting and audit 7,867 2,249 Legal fees 2,249 Dues and subscriptions 266 398 398 1,328 266 Van equipment repair and upkeep 2,184 2,184 4,368 Insurance - liability 7,574 15,148 7,574 Video supplies 2,054 2,054 4,108 Video tape expense 11,970 5,985 5,985 Promotional/meetings expense 3,630 3,630 5,446 5,446 18,152 Production helper expense 39,763 39,763 Interest expense 2,200 1,100 367 3,667 Assets contributed to member community 33,454 33,454 76,993 96.977 222,510 157,297 33,454 587,231 Total expenses before depreciation 38,082 12,694 126,940 Depreciation expense 76,164 Total expenses \$153,157 \$96.977 \$260.592 \$169.991 \$33,454 \$714.171



# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission Hamilton County 2492 Commodity Circle Sharonville, Ohio 45241

#### To the Commission:

We have audited the financial statements of the Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission, Hamilton County, Ohio (the Commission), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated September 19, 2003. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

### Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2002-001

### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the Commission's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2002-002.

Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission
Hamilton County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on
Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards*Page 2

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe that the reportable condition described above is not a material weakness.

We also noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to the management of the Commission in a separate letter September 19, 2003.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management and the Commission, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

**Betty Montgomery** Auditor of State

Betty Montgomeny

September 19, 2003

# SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

# FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

### **FINDING NUMBER 2002-001**

### Finding for Recovery Repaid Under Audit

State ex rel. McClure v. Hageman, 155 Ohio St. 320 (1951), provides that expenditures made by a public entity should serve a proper public purpose. Ohio Rev. Code, Section 9.39, states in part all public officials are liable for all public money received or collected by them or by their subordinates under color of office.

Our review of expenditures revealed 11 instances, totaling \$717.17, of payments made by the Commission for goods and services charged to the Executive Director's American Express credit card. There were no itemized receipts to support the charges listed on statements. The Commission issued the payments with no supporting documentation. Without itemized invoices it is not possible to determine if the expenses were for a proper public purpose.

In accordance with the foregoing facts, and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code, Section 117.28, a finding for recovery was made in favor of the Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission General Fund and against Patricia Stern, Executive Director in the amount of seven hundred seventeen dollars and seventeen cents for the illegal expenditure of public monies.

When informed of these facts, Ms. Stern repaid the Commission \$717.17, to the credit of the General Fund.

### **FINDING NUMBER 2002-002**

### **Reportable Condition**

Formal policies that define the proper use of Commission credit cards are essential for the Commission to ensure that purchases of goods and services charged to credit cards are properly authorized and for a proper public purpose. Proper review and authorization of reimbursement requests is essential for the Commission to verify that the reimbursements are made for a proper public purpose.

In 2002 and 2001, the Commission had no written policies related to the issuance and use of credit cards, and authorization of purchases. Our review of expenditures revealed 11 instances of reimbursements made by the Commission to the Executive Director for goods and services charged to the Executive Director's American Express credit card. There were no itemized receipts to support the charges listed on statements. The Commission was charged a total of \$257.14 in credit card finance charges and a total of \$174.00 in late fees.

Failure to implement appropriate policies and procedures related to credit card usage could result in the incurrence of expenses for an improper public purpose, circumvention of the purchasing process, increased liability due to lost or stolen credit card(s), unnecessary finance charges and late fees and purchases / expenses with no prior approval.

We recommend that the Commission establish a policy related to credit card purchases. This policy should define when purchases of goods or services can be charged to the credit card, and how to record the subsequent transaction and authorize payment. The policy should also provide guidance on documenting the description of the items being charged; the purpose of the purchase; the amount of the purchase; the account code to be charged; the person requesting the purchase; and the person authorizing the purchase.

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# SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:
2000-20431-001	Fixed asset detail listing at December 31, 2000 and 1999 did not contain adequate documentation of fixed assets.	Yes.	



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# INTERCOMMUNITY CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION HAMILTON 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.

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED OCTOBER 16, 2003