

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY  
Regular Audit  
December 31, 2007 and 2006**





# Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Board of Trustees  
Benton Township  
23514 St. Rt. 56  
South Bloomingville, Ohio 43152

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountants' Report* of Benton Township, Hocking County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

The financial statements in the attached report are presented in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State. Due to a February 2, 2005 interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), modifications were required to the *Independent Accountants' Report* on your financial statements. While the Auditor of State does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. The attached report includes an opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the statements are misstated under the non-GAAP regulatory basis. The *Independent Accountants' Report* also includes an opinion on the financial statements using the regulatory format the Auditor of State permits.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Benton Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

*Mary Taylor*

Mary Taylor, CPA  
Auditor of State

June 6, 2008

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**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

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***Perry & Associates***  
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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

May 16, 2008

Benton Township,  
Hocking County  
23514 St. Rt. 56  
South Bloomingville, OH 43152

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Benton Township, Hocking County, Ohio**, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township'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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure 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 our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 or their changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Benton Township, Hocking County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The aforementioned revision to generally accepted accounting principles also requires the Township to include Management's Discussion and Analysis for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 16, 2008, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Perry and Associates**  
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.



**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Local Taxes	\$ 146,552	\$ 53,827	\$ 200,379
Intergovernmental	39,598	99,086	138,684
Earnings on Investments	718	202	920
Miscellaneous	699	945	1,644
	<u>187,567</u>	<u>154,060</u>	<u>341,627</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>			
	<u>187,567</u>	<u>154,060</u>	<u>341,627</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	91,665	1,818	93,483
Public Safety	709	21,163	21,872
Public Works	500	236,955	237,455
Health	3,900	-	3,900
	<u>96,774</u>	<u>259,936</u>	<u>356,710</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>			
	<u>96,774</u>	<u>259,936</u>	<u>356,710</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>90,793</u>	<u>(105,876)</u>	<u>(15,083)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>			
Transfers-In	-	100,000	100,000
Transfers-Out	(100,000)	-	(100,000)
	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>			
	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements</b>	<u>(9,207)</u>	<u>(5,876)</u>	<u>(15,083)</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>110,853</u>	<u>82,555</u>	<u>193,408</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$ 101,646</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 76,679</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 178,325</u></u>
<b>Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$ 317</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 216</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 533</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts:</b>			
Local Taxes	\$ 133,494	\$ 49,745	\$ 183,239
Intergovernmental	28,806	101,690	130,496
Earnings on Investments	660	217	877
Miscellaneous	597	1,723	2,320
	<u>163,557</u>	<u>153,375</u>	<u>316,932</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>			
	<u>163,557</u>	<u>153,375</u>	<u>316,932</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements:</b>			
Current:			
General Government	78,539	4,701	83,240
Public Safety	-	15,688	15,688
Public Works	403	147,563	147,966
Health	3,617	-	3,617
Capital Outlay	-	1,650	1,650
	<u>82,559</u>	<u>169,602</u>	<u>252,161</u>
<b>Total Cash Disbursements</b>			
	<u>82,559</u>	<u>169,602</u>	<u>252,161</u>
<b>Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements</b>	<u>80,998</u>	<u>(16,227)</u>	<u>64,771</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):</b>			
Transfers-In	-	43,000	43,000
Transfers-Out	(43,000)	-	(43,000)
	<u>(43,000)</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</b>			
	<u>(43,000)</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Disbursements</b>	<u>37,998</u>	<u>26,773</u>	<u>64,771</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</b>	<u>72,855</u>	<u>55,782</u>	<u>128,637</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$ 110,853</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 82,555</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 193,408</u></u>
<b>Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31</b>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of the financial statements

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Description of the Entity**

Benton Township, Hocking County (the Township), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees and a publicly elected Fiscal Officer direct the Township. The Township provides general governmental services, including road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Laurelville to provide fire protection services.

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

**B. Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

**C. Cash and Investments**

The Township Fiscal Officer invests all available funds of the Township in an interest-bearing checking account.

**D. Fund Accounting**

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

**1. General Fund**

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

**2. Special Revenue Funds**

These funds are used to account for proceeds from specific sources that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township has the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

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

**D. Fund Accounting (Continued)**

**2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)**

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads.

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Fire Special Levy Fund - This fund receives property tax money for providing fire protection services to the citizens of the Township.

**E. Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

**1. Appropriations**

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, and object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

**2. Estimated Resources**

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

**3. Encumbrances**

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**F. Property, Plant and Equipment**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH**

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

	2007	2006
Demand deposits	\$ 178,325	\$ 193,408

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 174,010	\$ 187,567	\$ 13,557
Special Revenue	246,770	254,060	7,290
Total	\$ 420,780	\$ 441,627	\$ 20,847

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 284,863	\$ 197,091	\$ 87,772
Special Revenue	329,325	260,152	69,173
Total	\$ 614,188	\$ 457,243	\$ 156,945

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 138,810	\$ 163,557	\$ 24,747
Special Revenue	181,533	196,375	14,842
Total	\$ 320,343	\$ 359,932	\$ 39,589

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 211,665	\$ 125,559	\$ 86,106
Special Revenue	237,315	169,602	67,713
Total	\$ 448,980	\$ 295,161	\$ 153,819

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**4. PROPERTY TAX**

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Board of Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. Homestead and rollback amounts are then paid by the State, and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to make semiannual payment, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

**5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PERS is a cost-sharing, multi-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. For 2007 and 2006, members of PERS contributed 9.5% (2007) and 9% (2006) of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 13.85% (2007) and 13.7% (2006) of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Risk Pool Membership**

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Casualty Coverage**

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, OTARMA retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. OTARMA pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Townships can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with OTARMA.

If losses exhaust OTARMA's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

**Property Coverage**

Through 2004, OTARMA retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence. Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. It provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable value. If the stop-loss is reached by payment of JACKSON TOWNSHIP losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2006 was \$1,901,127.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective township.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP  
HOCKING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Financial Position**

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2006 and 2005 (the latest information available)

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$32,031,312	\$30,485,638
Liabilities	(11,443,952)	(12,344,576)
Retained earnings	<u>\$20,587,360</u>	<u>\$18,141,062</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$10,010,963	\$9,177,796
Liabilities	(676,709)	(1,406,031)
Retained earnings	<u>\$9,334,254</u>	<u>\$7,771,765</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$10.8 million and \$11.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 958 member townships in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.



***Perry & Associates***  
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

May 16, 2008

Benton Township,  
Hocking County  
23514 St. Rt. 56  
South Bloomingville, OH 43152

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of **Benton Township, Hocking County, Ohio** (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated May 16, 2008, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in 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 Township's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the Township's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)**

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

**Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**Perry and Associates**  
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.



**Mary Taylor, CPA**  
Auditor of State

**BENTON TOWNSHIP**

**HOCKING 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 19, 2008**