



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Trustees
Auglaize and Mercer Counties Convention and Visitors Bureau
Auglaize County
900 Edgewater Drive
St. Marys, Ohio 45885

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, to which the management of the Auglaize and Mercer Counties Convention and Visitors Bureau (the Bureau) agreed, solely to assist the Bureau in evaluating whether it recorded all lodging taxes it received from Auglaize and Mercer Counties, and to help evaluate whether the Bureau disbursed these lodging taxes for allowable purposes described below for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. The Bureau is responsible for disbursing lodging taxes for allowable purposes. We followed the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' attestation standards for agreed-upon procedures engagements 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 Auglaize and Mercer County the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2009 and 2008. The Counties confirmed the following amounts:

| <u>Year Ended</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|
| December 31, 2009 | \$127,555 |
| December 31, 2008 | \$157,023 |

2. 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. Mercer County Resolution 1168 (1993) and Resolution 585 (1996)
- d. Auglaize County Resolution 93-751
- e. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5739.09(A)(2)

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

Cash Disbursements (Continued)

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.

The Auglaize and Mercer Counties Resolutions require the Bureau to spend lodging tax for promoting the hospitality industry so that the hotel and motel industry of the County generally may share as equitably as possible in the benefits derived from the promotion of area wide accommodations, meeting facilities, restaurants, places of interest, attractions, as well as other community assets.

2. We haphazardly selected forty disbursements of lodging taxes from the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 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 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, 2009 and 2008, 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 else.



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January 26, 2010



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AUGLAIZE & MERCER COUNTIES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

AUGLAIZE 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
MARCH 9, 2010**