
CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Basic Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2011

With Independent Auditors' Report



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Directors
Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., for the audit period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. 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.

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. The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

October 15, 2012

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the
Convention Facilities Authority
for Hamilton County, Ohio:

We have audited the accompanying basic financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (the "Authority"), component unit of Hamilton County, Ohio as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Authority'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.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio as of December 31, 2011, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 28, 2012, on our consideration of the Authority'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. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

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Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 6 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, Ohio
June 28, 2012

**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(Unaudited)**

Overview

The Management's Discussion and Analysis section is designed to supplement the readers understanding of the financial statements by providing analytical, economical and factual information pertaining to the current and prior years' financial activities of the entity.

The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (CFA) is an up to 11-member body corporate and politic, organized and existing under Chapter 351 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended. The CFA issued bonds netting proceeds of \$111,176,644 dated March 2, 2004 for the purpose of expanding and renovating the Cinergy Convention Center (Duke Energy Center) in Cincinnati. This years MD&A will focus on the seventh year of operations for the CFA.

Financial Highlights

The CFA's total net assets increased by \$2.3 million. This is due to payment of the debt and an increase in Hotel taxes from the City of Cincinnati (City) and Hamilton County (County).

Operating Revenue for the CFA increased by \$742 thousand. Upon completion of the project, each year the remaining funds in the distribution account on February 28th after the payment of the prior year's debt service will be returned to the City and the County on a pro-rata share before March 31st. The sources of funds in this account are the City and County annual contribution and Hotel Tax collections. The amounts returned from the 2010 receipts were \$1.9 million to the County and \$710 thousand to the City. The 2011 distribution will be approximately \$2.5 million to the County and \$820 thousand to the City.

Operating expenses for the CFA increased by \$883 thousand in 2011 due to an increase in hotel revenue collected and the return of residual funds.

Financial Statements

The financial statements of the CFA report information about the CFA using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. These statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the CFA's overall financial status.

The following statements are included in this report:

The Statement of Net Assets reports the CFA's assets, liabilities and available resources. Capital assets related to the Duke Energy Center are reported as part of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio (City) Financial Statements.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets reports all financial receipts and disbursements made through the CFA.

The Statement of Cash Flows is designed to report the sources and uses of cash for the reporting entity.

Notes to the Financial Statements provide the reader with additional details about the amounts reported on the financial statements and the accounting policies used in preparation of the statements.

Financial Analysis

Statement of Net Assets

Summary Statement of Net Assets (Amounts In Thousands)

	2011	2010
Current and Other Assets	\$ 9,196	\$ 8,572
Long-term liabilities	80,539	83,047
Other liabilities	<u>6,055</u>	<u>5,254</u>
Total liabilities	86,594	88,301
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(77,398)</u>	<u>(79,729)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ (77,398)</u>	<u>\$ (79,729)</u>

Long-term liabilities for 2011 were \$80.5 million consisting of \$77.1 million of outstanding debt and \$3.4 million of unamortized bond premiums, compared to \$79.5 million in 2010. Total debt payments in 2011 were \$2.3 million in principal and \$3.9 million in interest. The debt will be repaid from specifically identified Hotel Tax revenues collected by both Hamilton County, Ohio (County) and the City and annual contributions from both the County and the City.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

**Summary of Revenues, Expenses and
Changes in Net Assets
(Amounts In Thousands)**

	2011	2010
Operating Revenues	\$ 9,601	\$ 8,859
Non-operating Revenues	<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>
Total Revenues	9,689	8,947
Operating Expenses	3,381	2,498
Non-operating Expenses	<u>3,977</u>	<u>4,044</u>
	<u>7,358</u>	<u>6,542</u>
Change in Net Assets	2,331	2,405
Net Assets, January 1	<u>(79,729)</u>	<u>(82,134)</u>
Net Assets, December 31	<u><u>\$(77,398)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(79,729)</u></u>

Operating revenues include the following items pledged to support expenses for both debt service and project costs as part of the renovation and expansion of the Duke Energy Center:

- Hotel Taxes
 - o County 3 ½%
 - o City 2002 1 ½ %
 - o City 1%
- Corporate Contributions
- Annual Contributions
 - o City \$1.0 million beginning in 2004
 - o County \$250,000 beginning in 2005
- Naming Rights
- State Grants

Budgetary Highlights

Per the Cooperative Agreement among the CFA, County and City during the construction period or so long as any Junior Subordinated Bonds have been issued and remain unpaid the costs associated with the operation of the CFA (i.e. annual audit, insurance, etc.) were the responsibility of the City. Upon completion of the project (June 2006) the cost of operations for the CFA is paid from a portion of the City’s 1% Hotel Tax and shall not exceed 10% of the 1% Hotel Tax. In 2006 the Junior Subordinate Bond commitment was released.

Debt Administration

The CFA financed the renovation and expansion of the Duke Energy Center primarily through the issuance of revenue bonds.

The CFA’s revenue bond ratings are:

	1 st Lien	2 nd Lien
Moody’s Investors Services	A2	Aa3
Standard & Poor’s Rating Services	A+	AA

Economic Factors

The Duke Energy Center contributes to the economic growth and stability of Cincinnati by providing a facility to host international, national and regional convention and trade shows, as well as public expositions and meetings. The old facility had 162,000 square feet of exhibit space and 82,000 square feet of meeting/ballroom space. With the expansion in 2006, the Cinergy Center now has 198,000 square feet of exhibit space and 103,000 square feet of meeting/ballroom space.

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Net Assets

December 31, 2011

(Amount In Thousands)

Assets

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents \$ 5,228

Receivables:

Accrued transit occupancy tax 1,983

Total current assets 7,211

Other assets:

Prepaid bond insurance 1,200

Costs of issuance 785

Total other assets 1,985

Total assets \$ 9,196

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Due to other governments \$ 3,312

Accrued interest payable 323

Bonds payable – current 2,420

Total current liabilities 6,055

Noncurrent liabilities:

Bonds payable (net of unamortized premium) 80,539

Total noncurrent liabilities 80,539

Total liabilities 86,594

Net Assets

Unrestricted (deficit) (77,398)

Total net assets \$ (77,398)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

(Amounts In Thousands)

Operating revenues:

Annual contribution – City	\$	1,000
Annual contribution – County		250
Hotel taxes – City		2,214
Hotel taxes – County		6,137
Total operating revenues		<u>9,601</u>

Operating expenses:

Return of Residual Funds to City and County		<u>3,381</u>
Total operating expenses		<u>3,381</u>
Operating Income		<u>6,220</u>

Non-operating revenues (expenses):

Interest expense		(3,925)
Amortization expense		(52)
Interest revenue		88
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)		<u>(3,889)</u>
Change in net assets		2,331

Total net assets – beginning (79,729)

Total net assets – ending \$ (77,398)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2011

(Amounts in Thousands)

Cash flows from operating activities	
Received from other governments	\$ 8,189
Received from contributions	1,250
Payments to other governments	<u>(2,635)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	6,804
Cash flows from Noncapital financing activities	
Interest paid on bonds	(3,935)
Principal paid on bonds	<u>(2,355)</u>
Net cash (used) by Noncapital financing activities	<u>(6,290)</u>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	514
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>4,714</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u><u>\$ 5,228</u></u>
Cash flows from operating activities	
Operating Income	\$ 6,220
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income to Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
Increase in Transit Occupancy Tax Receivable	(162)
Increase in Due to Other Governments	<u>746</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 6,804</u></u>

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2011

1. Reporting Entity

The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (CFA) is an up to 11-member body corporate and politic, organized and existing under Chapter 351 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended. It is controlled by Hamilton County who may appoint 6 members. The City of Cincinnati may appoint 3 members and the remaining two members are from other municipalities. Each member may serve a 4-year term and may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms. The CFA was created in 2002 for the purpose of financing the Cincinnati Convention Center renovation and expansion, now known as the Duke Energy Center. No financial activity took place until the revenue bonds were sold in 2004.

a. Component Unit

The Convention Facilities Authority (CFA) is a component unit of Hamilton County, Ohio. The financial report of the CFA is included in the Hamilton County of Ohio financial reports. The CFA is controlled by Hamilton County, Ohio, who appoints the majority of its board members (6 out of 11).

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the CFA have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

a. Basis of Presentation

The CFA's financial statements consist of a statement of net assets, a statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net assets, and a statement of cash flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in net assets, financial position, and cash flows.

b. Measurement Focus

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and all liabilities are included on the statement of net assets. The statement of changes in net assets presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total assets. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the CFA finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

c. Enterprise Fund Activity Accounting and Financial Reporting

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, “Basic Financial Statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Government, the CFA applies all GASB pronouncements and all FASB guidance issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless they conflict with GASB pronouncements. The CFA has elected not to apply FASB guidance issued after November 30, 1989.

d. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The CFA’s financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the CFA receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants and donations. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the CFA must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the CFA on a reimbursement basis.

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

e. Cash and Cash Equivalents

All monies received by the CFA are accounted for by the CFA’s fiscal agent, the City of Cincinnati, or the trustee. All cash received by the fiscal agent or the trustee is maintained in separate accounts in the CFA’s name. For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows and presentation on the Statement of Net Assets, investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the CFA, are considered to be cash equivalents.

f. Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The CFA applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

g. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity. For the CFA, these revenues are the contributions received for the financing of the Convention Facility and the hotel taxes for the repayment of the debt of the Convention Facility. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the CFA. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

h. Receivables and Payables

Hotel Occupancy tax is remitted to the CFA quarterly from the County and the City. Due to other governments represents the Return of Residual Funds.

i. Amortization of Bond Issuance Costs and Bond Premiums

The bond issuance costs are being amortized over the life of the bond in the same proportion as the annual principal payment to total outstanding principal.

j. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. Deposits and Investments

Deposits – At December 31, 2011 the carrying amount of CFA deposits held by the trustee total \$5,228,000 and the bank balance was \$5,228,000. The accounts are held in custodial accounts at The Bank of New York Mellon and are not collateralized.

Investments – The Trustee for the CFA holds no investments as of December 31, 2011.

The CFA's investment policy is limited by the Cooperative Agreement with the City and the County. The eligible investments include obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States or by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government or a no-load money market fund, which consists of these obligations. The CFA may also invest in time certificates of deposits of eligible institutions, bonds and other obligations of the State, City, or political subdivision of the State, Ohio subdivision's fund, and certain written repurchase agreements.

The CFA does not have a written credit risk policy, concentration of credit risk policy, investment rate risk policy, or foreign currency risk policy.

4. Long-term Debt

The CFA issued 30-year improvement bonds for the City of Cincinnati Convention Center Expansion (Duke Energy Center) of \$106,005,000 dated March 2, 2004.

The First Lien Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$70,065,000 were issued at interest rates between 2.0 – 5.0 % and yields between 1.05 – 4.44%. They are payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1 through 2033 the first payment was due December 1, 2004.

The Second Lien Improvement Bonds in the amount of \$35,940,000 were issued at interest rates ranging from 2.0% to 5.25% and yields from 1.05% to 4.44%. Bond are payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1 through 2028 the first payment was due December 31, 2004. A portion of this debt was defeased in August, 2007 and the remaining debt at December 31, 2011 is \$19,610,000 principal and \$8,966,000 interest.

	(Amounts in Thousands)				
	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Due Within</u> <u>One Year</u>
Bonds payable	\$81,890	\$ 0	\$2,355	\$ 79,535	\$2,420
Plus deferred					
Premium	<u>3,512</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>3,424</u>	<u>0</u>
Total long-term					
Liabilities	<u>\$85,402</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$2,443</u>	<u>\$82,959</u>	<u>\$ 2,420</u>

The annual debt service requirements to maturity for the revenue bonds are as follows:

First Lien Improvement Bonds			
Amounts in Thousands			
Year Ending	Principal	Interest	Total Amount
2012	\$ 1,570	\$ 2,984	\$ 4,554
2013	1,635	2,918	4,553
2014	1,715	2,836	4,551
2015	1,800	2,750	4,550
2016	1,890	2,660	4,550
2017-2021	10,975	11,785	22,760
2022-2026	14,005	8,753	22,758
2027-2031	17,870	4,884	22,754
2032-2033	8,465	640	9,105
Total	\$ 59,925	\$ 40,210	\$ 100,135

Second Lien Improvement Bonds			
Amounts in Thousands			
Year Ending	Principal	Interest	Total Amount
2012	\$ 850	\$ 886	\$ 1,736
2013	880	859	1,739
2014	910	831	1,741
2015	940	799	1,739
2016	975	766	1,741
2017-2021	5,660	3,044	8,704
2022-2026	6,000	1,563	7,563
2027-2028	3,395	218	3,613
Total	\$ 19,610	\$ 8,966	\$ 28,576

The Revenues pledged to the Trustee to support the debt include the following: The County Hotel Tax of 3.5 %, the City 2002 1.5% Hotel Tax, the City 1% Hotel Tax, the County Annual Contribution of \$250,000 beginning in 2005 and the City Annual Contribution of \$1,000,000 beginning in 2004.

Defeased Bonds

Below is a description of the CFA's Defeased Bonds and the outstanding balance at December 31, 2011.

Description Of Bonds	Date Originally Issued	Original Par Amount	Redemption Call Date	Date Defeased	Maturities Defeased	Interest Rate Defeased bonds %	Amount Defeased	Outstanding 12/31/11
Second Lien defeasance	8/30/2007	\$ 11,915	6/1/2014	8/30/07	2024-2033	3.72-4.44	\$ 11,255	\$ 11,255

5. Agreements / Leases

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County, dated September 30, 2002, a Cooperative Agreement between the City and the County, dated, February 9, 2004 (the "Cooperative Agreement"), and a Project Service Agreement between the City and the Authority dated February 3, 2004, the City and the County have agreed, among other things, that the City will (i) own the Duke Energy Center, (ii) be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Duke Energy Center and (iii) manage the design and construction of the Project. Construction of the Improvements began in May 2004 and was completed in June 2006.

The CFA entered into a lease with the City of Cincinnati for the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facility for the term of the improvement bonds, issued through December 2033, for an amount sufficient to retire City Bond Anticipation Notes, of \$15.5 million. These notes were issued in anticipation of the revenue bond sale by the CFA. At the end of the lease, the City of Cincinnati will own the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facilities.

In addition, the City and CFA have entered into a lease whereby the City will operate the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facilities for the term of the improvement bonds through December 2033.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Directors of the Convention Facilities
Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio:

We have audited the financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (the "Authority") a component unit of Hamilton County, Ohio as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011, which comprise the Authority's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 28, 2012. 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.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management of the Authority is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Authority's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency (2011-1) described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses to be a material weakness.

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Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Authority's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. We did not audit the Authority's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, Ohio
June 28, 2012

2011-1 – Audit Adjustment

Condition: During the course of our audit, we identified a material misstatement in the financial statements for the year under audit that was not identified by the Authority's internal control over financial reporting. A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A deficiency in operation exists when a properly designed control does not operate as designed. In this case, the internal controls over the preparation and review of the Authority's financial statements did not operate as designed and we consider this a material weakness.

Throughout the year, the Authority maintains its books and records on the cash-basis of accounting and converts its financial statements at year-end to generally accepted accounting principles. The Authority did not properly calculate the residual amount of hotel taxes to be returned to Hamilton County and initially under reported this amount in its financial statements by \$1,097,000. The correct amount was paid to Hamilton County.

We recommend the Authority enhance its internal controls over financial reporting with steps such as management analysis of the financials compared to prior years and management review of the annual calculations including amounts due to other governments.

Views of Responsible Officials: *An adjustment was made to the financial statements to accurately reflect the total in Due to Other Governments for 2011. Analytical procedures comparing current and prior year amounts will be implemented in the preparation of the 2012 financial statements.*



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

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.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

CERTIFIED
NOVEMBER 8, 2012