

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2016 TAXES**

**For The Period
April 16, 2016 Through April 17, 2017**



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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

William M. Landrum III, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

The Honorable Wallace Johnson, Montgomery County Judge/Executive

The Honorable Fred Shortridge, Montgomery County Sheriff

Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the Montgomery County Sheriff's Settlement - 2016 Taxes for the period April 16, 2016 through April 17, 2017 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting as described in Note 1. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements*, issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



To the People of Kentucky

The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

William M. Landrum III, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

The Honorable Wallace Johnson, Montgomery County Judge/Executive

The Honorable Fred Shortridge, Montgomery County Sheriff

Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Montgomery County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles paragraph, the financial statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the Montgomery County Sheriff, for the period April 16, 2016 through April 17, 2017.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 16, 2016 through April 17, 2017 of the Montgomery County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 20, 2017, on our consideration of the Montgomery County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on 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 the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Montgomery County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Matthew G. Bevin, Governor
William M. Landrum III, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Wallace Johnson, Montgomery County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Fred Shortridge, Montgomery County Sheriff
Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards* (Continued)

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

2016-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Harmon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

December 20, 2017

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FRED SHORTRIDGE, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2016 TAXES

For The Period April 16, 2016 Through April 17, 2017

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 860,394	\$ 3,679,056	\$ 5,906,490	\$ 1,421,392
Tangible Personal Property	85,232	487,906	578,296	568,653
Fire Protection	97			
Franchise Taxes	77,559	402,453	517,337	
Additional Billings	339	1,589	2,304	3,560
Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Reserves	119	559	815	196
Penalties	3,096	13,599	21,252	5,442
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	14,721	75,503	104,410	20,529
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>1,041,557</u>	<u>4,660,665</u>	<u>7,130,904</u>	<u>2,019,772</u>
 <u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	16,504	77,163	113,300	27,960
Discounts	15,160	67,000	103,894	32,131
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	16,037	69,601	110,091	26,439
Tangible Personal Property	1,878	10,281	12,889	10,600
Minimum Bills	22	96	151	80
Total Credits	<u>49,601</u>	<u>224,141</u>	<u>340,325</u>	<u>97,210</u>
Taxes Collected	991,956	4,436,524	6,790,579	1,922,562
Less: Commissions *	42,158	155,988	203,717	81,709
Taxes Due	949,798	4,280,536	6,586,862	1,840,853
Taxes Paid	949,747	4,278,541	6,586,069	1,839,686
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	685	3,096	4,652	1,167
Due District or (Refunds Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Audit	<u>\$ (634)</u>	<u>\$ (1,101)</u>	<u>\$ (3,859)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

**

* and ** See next page.

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
 FRED SHORTRIDGE, SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2016 TAXES
 For The Period April 16, 2016 Through April 17, 2017
 (Continued)

* Commissions:

4.25% on	\$	5,406,632
4% on	\$	1,020,970
3% on	\$	6,790,579
1% on	\$	923,440

** Special Taxing Districts:

Library District	\$	(834)
Health District		2,488
Extension District		(846)
Ambulance District		(770)
Fire District		<u>(1,139)</u>

Due District or (Refunds Due Sheriff)	\$	<u>(1,101)</u>
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 17, 2017

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a special purpose framework. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

KRS 66.480 authorizes the sheriff's office to invest in obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Montgomery County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the FDIC as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Montgomery County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240. As of April 17, 2017, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 17, 2017
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2016. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 30, 2016 through April 17, 2017.

B. Limestone, Sand, and Gravel Property Taxes

The limestone, sand, and gravel property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2016. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 16, 2016 through April 17, 2017.

C. Franchise Taxes

The franchise tax assessments were levied by the Department of Revenue for various tax years. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was May 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Montgomery County Sheriff earned \$4,839 as interest income on 2016 taxes. The sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibilities.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Montgomery County Sheriff collected \$30,864 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.119(7). This amount was used to operate the sheriff's office.

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

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MIKE HARMON
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Wallace Johnson, Montgomery County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Fred Shortridge, Montgomery County Sheriff
Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited, 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, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Settlement - 2016 Taxes for the period April 16, 2016 through April 17, 2017 - Regulatory Basis and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated December 20, 2017. The Montgomery County Sheriff's financial statement is prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statement, we considered the Montgomery County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Montgomery County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Montgomery County Sheriff's internal control.

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 statement will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2016-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*
(Continued)

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Montgomery County Sheriff's financial statement is 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*.

Views of Responsible Official and Planned Corrective Action

The Montgomery County Sheriff's views and planned corrective action for the finding identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Montgomery County Sheriff's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Harmon
Auditor of Public Accounts

December 20, 2017

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FRED SHORTRIDGE, SHERIFF
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

For The Period April 16, 2016 Through April 17, 2017

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY:

2016-001 The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

During our review of internal controls, we noted a lack of adequate segregation of duties over tax receipts and disbursements. The bookkeeper is responsible for preparing monthly reports, preparing and signing checks, taking the deposit to the bank, and preparing bank reconciliations. This is a repeat finding and was included in the prior year audit report as finding 2015-001.

According to the sheriff, the sheriff's office has a limited number of staff that prevents adequate segregation of duties over most accounting functions of the office. The lack of adequate segregation of duties increases the risk of undetected errors. Proper segregation of duties is essential for providing protection from asset misappropriation and inaccurate financial reporting, while also protecting employees in the normal course of performing their responsibilities.

We recommend the sheriff segregate these duties or implement compensating controls to offset this significant deficiency:

- An independent person should periodically compare the daily bank deposit to the daily checkout sheet and then compare the daily checkout sheet to the receipts ledger. Any differences should be reconciled. This individual should document this by initialing the bank deposit, daily checkout sheet, and the receipts ledger.
- An independent person should compare the monthly financial report to the receipts and disbursements ledgers for accuracy. Any difference should be reconciled. This individual should document this by initialing the monthly financial reports.
- An independent person should compare the monthly bank reconciliation to the balance in the checkbook. Any differences should be reconciled. This individual should document this by initialing the bank reconciliation and the balance in the checkbook.

Sheriff's Response: We separate duties within our office to fit our needs and responsibility. Even though we are a small office, it is obvious that what we have in place are working. The Audits in the past years and present, shows that there is no misappropriation and/or no inaccurate financial reporting. That being said, we will continue to work hard to improve the day to day responsibilities for the tax payers in Montgomery County.