



Auditor of Public Accounts  
Mike Harmon

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Michael Goins**  
[Michael.Goins@ky.gov](mailto:Michael.Goins@ky.gov)  
**502.564.5841**  
**502.209.2867**

**Harmon Releases Audit of Former Muhlenberg County Sheriff's Tax Settlement**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the audit of the sheriff's settlement – 2019 taxes for former Muhlenberg County Sheriff Ricki Allen. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

Auditing standards require the auditor's letter to communicate whether the former sheriff's settlement presents fairly the taxes charged, credited, and paid in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for the period April 16, 2019 through May 15, 2020 in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on conducting an 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 County Fee Officials* 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 statements are free from material misstatement. Because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Our basis for disclaiming is that we were unable to obtain required written management representations from the former Muhlenberg County Sheriff, which results in a management-imposed scope limitation. Management is required to provide written representations to assert that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and that the information provided to the auditor is complete. Due to the former

Muhlenberg County Sheriff passing away and there was no other member of management that could provide the required representations, we were unable to place appropriate reliance on the information provided during the audit and, therefore, cannot reduce the audit risk to an acceptable level.

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the financial statement.

The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance. The auditor also noted no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered to be material weaknesses.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The audit report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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