



**Travis County District Attorney's Office  
Forfeited Property Examination  
#14-19**

**December 11, 2014**

TRAVIS COUNTY  
AUDITOR'S OFFICE

NICKI RILEY, CPA  
COUNTY AUDITOR



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To: Rosemary Lehmborg  
Travis County District Attorney

From: Nicki Riley, CPA  
Travis County Auditor

Date: December 11, 2014

Subject: Forfeited Property Account examination

Scheduled as part of our statutory requirements, particularly those in Section 115 of the Local Government Code and Article 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the (REC) Risk Evaluation and Consulting Division of the Travis County Auditor's Office has completed an examination of the Forfeited Property Accounts (FPA) maintained by the Travis County District Attorney's Office. We conducted our examination in accordance with the applicable statutes governing the County Auditor's Office and those relating to County financial and accounting protocols. As a result of our examination, we are providing this report on our findings and recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND**

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Disposition of forfeited property is governed by Article 59.06 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The District Attorney's Office disburses seized funds held in escrow according to the orders in forfeiture judgments. Any forfeited funds awarded to the District Attorney are deposited in an account that may be used solely for the official purposes of that office after a budget for the expenditure of the proceeds has been submitted to Commissioners Court. The receipts and disbursements of forfeiture proceeds must be accounted for by this office.

## **SCOPE OF EXAMINATION**

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This examination included an assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the overall system of financial controls in place for the District Attorney's Forfeited Property Accounts during the

period September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014. While we conducted reviews of accounting-related controls, this examination did not include operational reviews of the Forfeited Property Account.

The scope of this examination included an examination of the overall internal controls in place with respect to compliance with state guidelines, and deposits and disbursements of forfeited funds, including any accrued interest.

## EXAMINATION METHODOLOGY

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Our work was based on applying sampling procedures to office records and on verbal and written representations from this office. Sampling relates to examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial records and statements. The use of sampling techniques would not necessarily disclose all matters in the forfeited property financial statements, financial records, and financial controls that might be material weaknesses or misstatements. In regards to the written and verbal representations made by this office, unless otherwise noted in this report, office management maintains that the assertions we relied upon in the examination were correct to the best of their knowledge.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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No current significant findings.

## OPINION OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM

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Based upon our examination, we gave the overall system of financial controls for forfeited funds a rating of “Adequate,” indicating an overall solid system of internal controls that outweighs the relatively minor findings from the examination.

## ATTACHMENTS

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**Attachment A:** This attachment contains descriptions for each of the ratings we use to describe the effectiveness of the internal controls environment for the functional area under review.

**Attachment B:** Copies of this office’s financial statements for August 31, 2014, are provided in Attachment B. These statements include a detailed statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance, and a balance sheet for the forfeited property account. The express purpose of presenting these statements is to provide feedback to Travis County officials. These financial statements have not been audited by Travis County’s external auditors.

**EXAMINATION TEAM**

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Lisa Denton, Senior Auditor  
Jennifer Bodiker, Staff Auditor  
Joshua Kubiak, Staff Auditor

**CLOSING**

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This report is intended solely for the information and use of your office and the Commissioners' Court. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance received from the management and staff of the Travis County District Attorney's Office during this examination. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.



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David Jungerman, CIA  
Chief Assistant County Auditor I - REC  
Division



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Patti Smith, CPA  
First Assistant County Auditor



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Nicki Riley, CPA  
Travis County Auditor

## REPORT DISTRIBUTION

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Jessica Rio, Director, Planning and Budget Office  
Michele Pearson, Financial Manager  
Managers, Travis County Auditor's Office  
Examination File

## ATTACHMENT A – INTERNAL CONTROLS RATING KEY

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A good internal control system reduces the risk of errors, defalcations, and misappropriations of funds. Weak internal control systems provide an environment in which errors, defalcations, and misappropriations of funds can go undetected. The following details the various grades we assign to internal control systems:

<b>RATING</b>	<b>RATING DESCRIPTION</b>
Good	Well-established internal controls with few, if any, minor weaknesses noted
Adequate	The overall solid system of internal controls is sufficient to outweigh noted weaknesses
Requires Improvement	Internal control weaknesses exist that moderately impact the overall system of internal controls
Requires Significant Improvement	Significant internal control weaknesses exist that negatively impact the overall system of internal controls
Inadequate	The existing system of internal controls is materially ineffective

**ATTACHMENT B - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**District Attorney Forfeited Property Account  
Special Revenue Fund  
Detailed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance  
For the Year Ended August 31, 2014**

<b>Revenues:</b>	
Fines and forfeits	\$ 376,415
Investment income	5,453
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Total revenues	381,868
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<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Current:	
Justice system:	
Personnel costs	500,847
Supplies	6,071
Other charges	9,022
Capital outlay	-
Debt service	-
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Total expenditures	515,940
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Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(134,072)
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<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>	
Transfers in	-
Transfers out	-
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Total other financing sources (uses)	-
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Net change in fund balance	(134,072)
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Fund balance - beginning of year	960,771
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Fund balance - end of year	\$ 826,699
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NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement has not been audited by Travis County's external auditors.

**District Attorney Forfeited Property Account  
Special Revenue Fund  
Balance Sheet  
August 31, 2014**

**Assets**

Cash	\$	845,260
Other receivables		10
		10
Total assets	\$	845,270

**Liabilities and Fund Balance**

**Liabilities:**

Due to other funds	\$	18,571
		18,571
Total liabilities		18,571

**Fund balance:**

Reserved for encumbrances		-
Unreserved - undesignated		826,699
		826,699
Total fund balance		826,699
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$	845,270

NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement has not been audited by Travis County's external auditors.

**District Attorney Forfeited Property Account  
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities  
Agency Fund  
August 31, 2014**

**Assets**

Cash	<u>\$ 1,432,521</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 1,432,521</u></u>

**Liabilities**

Other liabilities	<u>1,432,521</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,432,521</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

NOTE: The express purpose of presenting this financial statement and the appropriate findings is to comply with applicable local government code statutes and to provide internal control feedback to Travis County officials. This financial statement has not been audited by Travis County's external auditors.