



**Travis County Auditor's Office
Review of the
Travis County District Attorney's Office
Forfeited Property Accounts
#17-29**

November 27, 2017

TRAVIS COUNTY
AUDITOR'S OFFICE

NICKI RILEY, CPA
COUNTY AUDITOR



TRAVIS COUNTY
700 LAVACA
P.O. BOX 1748
AUSTIN, TX 78767
(512) 854-9125
FAX: (512)854-9164

To: Margaret Moore
Travis County District Attorney

From: Nicki Riley, CPA
Travis County Auditor

Date: November 27, 2017

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 Risk Evaluation and Consulting Division (REC) 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 of our findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND

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 (DA) 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

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, 2016 to August 31, 2017. 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

Our work was based on applying sampling procedures to office records and on verbal and written representations from the DA's 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 signify material weaknesses or misstatements. In regards to the written and verbal representations made by personnel from the DA's Office, unless otherwise noted in this report, office management maintains that the assertions we relied upon were correct to the best of their knowledge.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No current significant findings.

OPINION OF INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM

Based upon our examination, we gave the overall system of financial controls for forfeited funds a rating of "Satisfactory," indicating well-established controls with no material weaknesses noted.

ATTACHMENTS

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, 2017, 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. In addition, a statement of fiduciary assets and liabilities for the escrow account is included. The 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

Angel Candelario, Staff Auditor

CLOSING

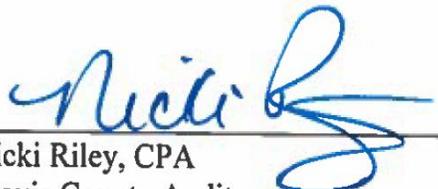
This report is intended solely for the information and use of your office and the Commissioners' Court. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance received from the management and staff of the Travis County District Attorney's Office during this examination. Please contact us if you have any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



David Jungerman, CIA
Chief Assistant County Auditor I – REC



Patti Smith, CPA
First Assistant County Auditor



Nicki Riley, CPA
Travis County Auditor

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Lora Livingston, Judge, 261st Judicial District
Brenda Kennedy, Judge, 403rd Judicial District
Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Judge
Jeff Travillion, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Brigid Shea, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Gerald Daugherty, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4
Jessica Rio, County Executive, Travis County Planning and Budget Office
Victoria Ramirez, Financial Manager, Travis County District Clerk's Office
Managers, Travis County Auditor's Office
Examination File

ATTACHMENT A – INTERNAL CONTROLS RATING KEY

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:

RATING	RATING DESCRIPTION
Satisfactory	Well-established internal controls with no material weaknesses noted.
Satisfactory, with findings noted	A solid overall system of internal controls is in place; however, some material weaknesses were noted.
Inadequate	The existing system of internal controls is materially ineffective.

ATTACHMENT B – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**District Attorney
State and Federal Forfeited Property Account
Special Revenue Fund
Detailed Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
For the Year Ended August 31, 2017**

Revenues:

Fines and forfeits	\$ 221,286
Investment income	2,387
	<hr/>
Total revenues	223,673

Expenditures:

Current:	
Justice system:	
Personnel costs	349,917
Supplies	1,534
Other charges	24,659
Capital outlay	-
Debt service	-
	<hr/>
Total expenditures	376,110
	<hr/>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(152,437)

Other financing sources (uses):

Transfers in	-
Transfers out	49,444
	<hr/>
Total other financing sources (uses)	49,444

Net change in fund balance	(201,881)
	<hr/>
Fund balance - beginning of year	640,033
	<hr/>
Fund balance - end of year	\$ 438,152

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
State and Federal Forfeited Property Account
Special Revenue Fund
Balance Sheet
August 31, 2017**

Assets

Cash	\$ 474,975
	\$ 474,975
Total assets	\$ 474,975

Liabilities and Fund Balance

Liabilities:

Due to other funds	\$ 36,823
	36,823
Total liabilities	36,823

Fund balance:

Reserved for encumbrances	-
Unreserved - undesignated	438,152
	438,152
Total fund balance	438,152
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ 474,975

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 Escrow Account
Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities
Agency Fund
August 31, 2017**

Assets

Cash	\$ 825,235
Total assets	\$ 825,235

Liabilities

Other liabilities	825,235
Total liabilities	825,235
Net Assets	\$ -

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.