

COUNTY OF LEHIGH OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

LEHIGH COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
17 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101-2400
(610) 782-3082 FAX: (610) 820-3335

THOMAS SLONAKER
COUNTY CONTROLLER

JOHN A. FALK DEPUTY CONTROLLER

August 1, 2011

Mr. Daniel E. Shea, Vice President-Finance The Briad Group 78 Okner Parkway Livingston, NJ 07039

Brian L. Kahler, Fiscal Officer Lehigh County Government Center 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2400

RE: Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport 2031 Avenue C Bethlehem, PA 18017

To Messrs. Shea and Kahler:

We have recently completed an agreed-upon procedures engagement of hotel room rental tax remitted by the Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport for the period January 1 to November 30, 2010. Our report number 11-42 is attached.

The result of our review is \$131.57 in hotel room rental tax was assessed.

The corresponding HOTEL TAX "DETERMINATION" from Mr. Kahler requesting payment of \$131.57 is also attached.

Thomas Slonaker County Controller

Attachments

xc: General Manager, Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport

HOTEL TAX/HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON-ATOWN BETHLEHEM AIRPORT (BRIAD)

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX REMITTANCES HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON – ALLENTOWN BETHLEHEM AIRPORT

Independent Controller's Office Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures For the Period January 1 to November 30, 2010

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX REMITTANCES HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON – ALLENTOWN BETHLEHEM AIRPORT

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Mr. Daniel E. Shea, Vice President-Finance The Briad Group 78 Okner Parkway Livingston, NJ 07039

Brian L. Kahler, Fiscal Officer Lehigh County Government Center 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2400

RE: Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport 2031 Avenue C
Bethlehem, PA 18017

To Messrs. Shea and Kahler:

Pursuant to Act 12 of 2005, section 1770.8 to the County Code, Lehigh County Ordinance #2005-180 and the Lehigh County Hotel Room Rental Tax Rules and Regulations effective September 4, 2005, a four percent hotel room rental tax shall be collected and remitted to the Lehigh County fiscal officer. We have performed certain procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Lehigh County fiscal officer, solely to assist the county fiscal officer in determining the accuracy of hotel room rental tax remittances made by the Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport's management for the period January 1 to November 30, 2010. The fiscal officer, as the delegate for the County Executive, is responsible for the collection of the hotel room rental tax.

Procedures performed included:

- Verification of reported revenue to Form PA-3 submitted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue.
- Compliance to the County of Lehigh Rules and Regulations for hotel room rental tax collection.
- Verification of reported revenue and hotel room rental tax collections to hotel operator accounting records.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and "Government Auditing Standards" as issued by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) and "Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements" as issued by the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures performed.

Reported taxable revenues of \$2,074,245.30 resulted in \$82,969.81 in hotel tax payable to the County of Lehigh during the period under review (before adjustments). Based on our review, additional tax and interest is due for an exemption adjustment of \$131.57.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an audit, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on hotel room rental tax collections. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the county fiscal officer and management of the County of Lehigh and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Thomas Slonaker County Controller

Attachment

June 27, 2011 Allentown, PA

<u>Final Distribution</u>
Board of Commissioners
Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., County Executive



Briad Lodging Group Bethlehem, LLC [FEIN 20-2703431] 78 Okner Parkway - Livingston, NJ 07039 - 973-597-6433 x1133 dshea@briad.com

July 18, 2011

Mr. Thomas Slonaker Lehigh County Controller 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, PA 18101-2400 FAX: 610-820-3335

RE:

Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport

2031 Avenue C, Bethlehem PA 18017

Dear Mr. Slonaker:

We acknowledge receipt of the draft of your report dated June 27, 2011 under cover of your letter dated July 12, 2011 on "Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures" for the above captioned property for the period January 1 to November 30, 2010, inclusive. This letter shall serve as the "Hotel Operator Response" for inclusion in your report, at your discretion.

The report indicates tax due of \$107. This small amount represents 99.8% compliance with reporting and remittance requirements. Further, the five (5) folios involved are considered isolated instances and do not represent any pattern of noncompliance. Accordingly, we do not plan to contest the findings and will timely pay the tax and interest due amount totaling \$131.57 upon final issue.

Ouestions or concerns should be directed to the undersigned. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Shea

Vice President - Finance

Dave Cahill - CFO cc:

Daniel & Shen

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COUNTY OF LEHIGH Office of Fiscal Affairs

Brian L. Kahler Fiscal Officer

August 1, 2011

Mr. Daniel E. Shea, Vice President-Finance The Briad Group 78 Okner Parkway Livingston, NJ 07039

RE: HOTEL TAX "DETERMINATION"

Homewood Suites by Hilton - Allentown Bethlehem Airport

Dear Mr. Shea:

According to the recent agreed-upon procedures performed by the Lehigh County controller's office, hotel tax and interest is due for the period January 1 to November 30, 2010.

In accordance with Section G of the Hotel Tax Rules and Regulations, you are hereby requested to remit the sum of \$131.57. The calculations of the "determination" (as stated in Section G) were included in the Lehigh County controller's office draft report. Failure to remit the payment within ten (10) days will result in additional penalties, attorney fees, and fines as stated in Section G.

Very truly yours,

Brian L. Kahler Fiscal Officer

xc: Thomas Slonaker, County Controller

HOTEL TAX/HOTEL TAX DETERMINATION LETTER

Government Center 17 South Seventh Street Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101-2401

> Accounts Receivable Phone: 610-782-3112 Fax: 610-820-3121