

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

September 8, 2010

Vikas Joshi, Manager Howard Johnson Inn & Suites 3220 Hamilton Boulevard Allentown, PA 18103

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

RE: Knights Inn and Suites 1880 Steelstone Road Allentown, PA 18109

To Messrs. Joshi and Kahler:

We have recently completed an agreed-upon procedures engagement of hotel room rental tax remitted by Knights Inn and Suites for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009. Our report number 10-48 is attached.

The result of our review is \$58.82 in hotel room rental tax was assessed.

The corresponding HOTEL TAX "DETERMINATION" from Mr. Kahler requesting payment of \$58.82 is also attached.

Thomas Slonaker County Controller

Attachment

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX REMITTANCES KNIGHTS INN AND SUITES

Independent Controller's Office Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures For the Period January 1 to December 31, 2009

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX REMITTANCES KNIGHTS INN AND SUITES

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RE: Knights Inn and Suites 1880 Steelstone Road Allentown, PA 18109

To Messrs. Joshi 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 Knights Inn and Suites management for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009. 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 \$1,121,246.39 resulted in \$44,849.85 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 \$58.82.

An issue regarding exemption reporting compliance is detailed on the attached page titled "Exemption Reporting Compliance".

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

Attachments

July 30, 2010 Allentown, PA

<u>Final Distribution</u>
Board of Commissioners
Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., County Executive
General Manger, Knights Inn & Suites

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL ROOM RENTAL TAX REMITTANCES KNIGHTS INN AND SUITES

Exemption Reporting Compliance

<u>Condition</u>: The county provides two forms for submitting exemptions with the monthly hotel tax return. One form is for permanent residence exemptions and the other is to be used for all non-permanent residence exemptions. Currently, the hotel is putting all exemptions on the permanent residence form regardless of the type of exemption.

<u>Recommendation</u>: The hotel should begin submitting both forms with their monthly returns and placing the correct exemptions on the correct form.