



Lehigh County
Pennsylvania

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Mark Pinsley, MBA
COUNTY CONTROLLER

Nanton John, CFE
DEPUTY CONTROLLER

TO: Final Report Distribution
FROM: Mark Pinsley, County Controller
DATE: January 26, 2023 TV
RE: Lehigh County Magisterial District Court Audit Summary

We have recently completed financial audits of each Lehigh County Magisterial District Court (MDC) for the calendar years ended December 31, 2020 and 2021. Separate written reports were issued to each Magisterial District Judge. A summary of "*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Balance*" appears on page three. Our audit report number 23-03 is attached.

The results of our current audit are:

- The County of Lehigh received the proper amounts due from the Magisterial District Courts.
- The Magisterial District Judges are in general compliance with the applicable financial AOPC guidelines.

Attachment



COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY REPORT

For the Calendar Years 2020 and 2021

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY REPORT

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OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Mark Pinsley, MBA
COUNTY CONTROLLER

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DEPUTY CONTROLLER

Carolynn Perry
Magisterial District Judge Administrator
Lehigh County Courthouse
455 West Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101-1614

Report on Financial Statements

We have recently completed financial audits of each Lehigh County Magisterial District Court for the years 2020 and 2021. Separate written reports were sent to the Magisterial District Judges. A summary *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance* for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Schedules) and the related notes to the Schedules appear on Pages 3 and 4 respectively.

Management's Responsibility for the Schedules

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these Schedules in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Schedules based on our audits. We conducted our 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Schedules. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Schedules, whether due to human error or fraud. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to management's preparation and fair presentation of the Schedules in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of management's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Schedules.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Opinion on the Schedules

In our opinion, the Schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial activity arising from cash transactions of the Lehigh County Magisterial District Courts for the years January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, in accordance with the U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 1, the Schedules were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Also, as discussed in Note 1, the Schedules present only the Magisterial District Courts' financial activity and does not purport to, and does not, present fairly the assets, liabilities, and results of operations of the County of Lehigh for the years January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 in conformity with the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 19, 2023 on our consideration of the Magisterial District Courts' internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering management's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.


MARK PINSLEY
County Controller

January 19, 2023
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Audited by: Allan Vavra and Brian O'Donnell

Final Distribution:

Phillips Armstrong, County Executive
Auditor General of Pennsylvania
Board of Commissioners
Edward Hozza, Director of Administration
Magisterial District Judges
Timothy Reeves, Chief Fiscal Officer
The Honorable J. Brian Johnson, President Judge
John Sikora, Deputy Court Administrator
Andrew Simpson, Judicial Programs Administrator, AOPC
Kerry Turtzo, Court Administrator
Reina Zabala, Executive Aide to the MDJ Administrator

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY REPORT

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements,
and Changes in Cash Balance
For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2021
(NOTE 1)*

Receipts:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Office Receipt Activity	7,578,290	9,246,585
Bank Account Interest	555	984
	7,578,845	9,247,569
Disbursements:		
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Costs and Fines	4,214,818	4,949,276
County of Lehigh – Costs and Fines	1,359,530	1,590,391
Municipalities - Cost and Fines	1,220,867	1,516,785
Server Fees (NOTE 2)	416,509	501,942
Refunds	283,973	501,667
Restitution	113,325	139,908
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Interest	555	983
	7,609,577	9,200,953
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(30,732)	46,616
Cash Balance, January 1	503,042	472,311
	472,310	518,927

The accompanying notes to financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT OFFICES SUMMARY REPORT

Notes to Financial Statement
For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2021

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policy**

A. Reporting Entity

A portion of the 14 Magisterial District Courts' financial activity is a part of the County of Lehigh's reporting entity, included in the general fund and is subject to annual financial audit by external auditors. The remaining financial activity is part of other governmental entities. This report is only for internal audit purposes.

B. Basis of Accounting

The accounting records of the County of Lehigh and the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance are maintained on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, revenue is recognized when cash is received and expenditures are recognized when paid. This differs from Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) which requires the accrual basis of accounting.

C. Administrative Guidelines

An automated *Clerical Procedures Manual* is published by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC). Each Magisterial District Court is required to follow the procedures mandated under the authority of Rule 505 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration.

2. **Server Fees**

Constables receive payment for services rendered from two sources. The Magisterial District Court pays the constable for services rendered and recovers the cost from the defendant when the case is paid-in-full. However, when the defendant is found not guilty, sentenced to confinement, or cannot pay the assessments, the County of Lehigh pays the constable. As such, the costs represented in the financial statements are not inclusive of server costs incurred and paid for by the County of Lehigh.



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

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COUNTY CONTROLLER DEPUTY CONTROLLER

Carolynn Perry
Magisterial District Judge Administrator
Lehigh County Courthouse
455 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101-1614

We have recently completed financial audits of each Lehigh County Magisterial District Court, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller of the United States; the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balance summary for the years January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021 (hereafter referred to as the Schedules) and have issued our report thereon dated January 19, 2023.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the Schedules, we considered the Magisterial District Courts' internal control over financial reporting to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the Schedules, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of management's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Magisterial District Courts' internal control over financial reporting.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention to those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Significant deficiencies or material weaknesses may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.



Compliance and Other Matters

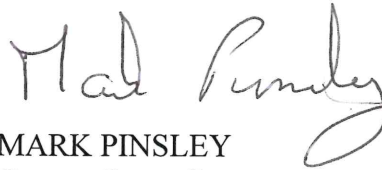
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Magisterial District Courts' Schedules are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. Our audit also included sufficient and appropriate tests for fraud, waste and abuse and we included in our report any material (either quantitatively or qualitatively) instances we noted however, our audit procedures would not necessarily identify all instances of fraud, waste and abuse that may be reportable.

Management's Response to the Audit

If provided, the Magisterial District Judge Administrator's response to our audit is included in this report. We did not audit the Magisterial District Judge Administrator's response and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal controls and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Magisterial District Judges, the Court, others within the entity, 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.


MARK PINSLEY
County Controller

January 19, 2023
Allentown, PA