



**County of Chester
Office of the Controller
Internal Audit Department**

**Audit Report
For the Years Ended
December 31, 2013 and 2012**

***County of Chester
Magisterial District Court
15-4-02***

**Annual Financial Statement
Audit**

Norman MacQueen, Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi
231 Boot Road
Downingtown, PA 19335

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

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NORMAN MACQUEEN
Controller

Internal Auditor's Report

Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi
231 Boot Road
Downingtown, PA 19335

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Magisterial District Court 15-4-02 (*District Court*), which comprises the statements of assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related statements of cash receipts, disbursements and cash balances for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to annually audit the accounts of every magistrate or district judge within the County and to report the results of such audits to the Chester County Commissioners, the Chester County Court of Common Pleas, the Auditor General of Pennsylvania, and to the governing body of each political subdivision which is entitled to receive funds collected on its behalf by the *District Court*.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the 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 financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit

also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the *District Court* as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and its cash receipts, disbursements and cash balances for the years then ended in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matter

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, Internal Audit has also issued a separate report dated April 22, 2014 on our evaluation of the *District Court's* internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, policies and/or procedures. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and is to be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.



Norman MacQueen
Controller

April 22, 2014

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES – CASH BASIS

DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash - Checking Account	\$ 26,395	\$ 27,909
Cash - Petty Cash/Change Fund	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 26,545</u>	<u>\$ 28,059</u>
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$ 3,774	\$ 3,572
County of Chester	8,440	9,813
Coatesville City	-	38
Caln Township	2,222	4,463
East Brandywine Township	1,589	1,614
West Bradford Township	91	-
Parkesburg Borough	-	4
Coatesville Area School District	30	12
Bail, Restitution and Collateral	10,249	8,393
Due to County - Petty Cash/Change Fund	<u>150</u>	<u>150</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 26,545</u>	<u>\$ 28,059</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CASH BALANCES – CASH BASIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	\$ 305,938	\$ 354,118
County of Chester	145,754	161,427
Coatesville City	244	433
Caln Township	55,781	59,190
East Brandywine Township	30,097	33,561
Valley Township	-	1
West Bradford Township	375	-
West Sadsbury Township	12	-
Downingtown Borough	100	-
Parkesburg Borough	17	58
South Coatesville Borough	50	-
Coatesville Area School District	846	472
Bail, Restitution, and Collateral	<u>71,307</u>	<u>76,386</u>
Total Receipts	610,521	685,646

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CASH BALANCES – CASH BASIS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	305,735	355,253
County of Chester	147,127	164,131
Coatesville City	282	406
Caln Township	58,023	58,677
East Brandywine Township	30,122	34,100
Valley Township	-	1
West Bradford Township	284	-
West Sadsbury Township	13	-
Downingtown Borough	100	-
Parkesburg Borough	20	72
South Coatesville Borough	50	-
Coatesville Area School District	828	618
Bail, Restitution, and Collateral	69,451	149,632
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Disbursements	612,035	762,890
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Decrease	(1,514)	(77,244)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash, Beginning of Year	27,909	105,153
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash, End of Year	\$ 26,395	\$ 27,909
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Principles

Background and Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the *District Court* include only those transactions handled directly by the *District Court*. These transactions include the collection of costs, fines, bail, and restitution, as well as the subsequent disbursement of these funds to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to related political subdivisions, and to citizens served by the *District Court*. As such, the *District Court* acts as a conduit for the Commonwealth, local municipalities, and constituents it serves. Consequently, the *District Court's* cash balance at any point in time represents undisbursed funds to one (or all) of these parties. For financial statement purposes, these undisbursed funds are included as a liability of the *District Court*.

The actual operating expenses of the *District Court* are paid by the County of Chester, except for the Magisterial District Judge's salary which is paid by the Commonwealth. These costs include the salaries and wages of district court employees, fringe benefits, office rent, postage, telephone, office supplies, computer/LAN use, and furniture and equipment. These costs are not included in the audited Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash Balance.

Basis of Accounting

The books and records of the *District Court* are maintained on the cash basis of accounting. Consequently, receipts are recognized when received rather than when assessed or otherwise due and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying statements do not present the assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and cash balance in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Note 2 - Legal Matters

Our audit disclosed no pending litigation involving the *District Court* or its Magisterial District Judge (Jeffrey J. Valocchi) that would affect the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012

Note 3 – District Court Realignments

In April 2013, Magisterial District Judge Rita Arnold resigned from office after being charged with two (2) criminal offenses – “tampering with records” and “obstruction of administration of law or other governmental function”. The charges were brought by the Attorney General’s Office who accused the Judge of intentionally obstructing the law by failing to properly perform her duties as an elected magisterial judge, and for concealing records pertaining to wrongdoing. In June 2013, the former magisterial judge entered a guilty plea in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas and was later sentenced to 16 to 32 months in state prison.

Due to the vacancy in this District Court, The Honorable James P. MacElree II, President Judge Chester County included within his “Proposed Reestablishment Plan for the Magisterial Districts of the Fifteenth Judicial Districts” that the municipalities which existed under District Court 15-2-06 be re-aligned to District Court 15-1-01 and District Court 15-4-02. In addition, the building previously occupied by District Court 15-2-06 would be assumed by Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi effective November 30, 2013 and would become the new location for District Court 15-4-02.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

SCHEDULES OF COUNTY OF CHESTER
REVENUES AND DIRECT EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012
(Unaudited)

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
County Fines and Costs	\$ 137,012	\$ 160,972
<u>Direct Expenditures</u>		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 170,141	\$ 163,847
Fringe Benefits	84,411	77,304
Office Rent	81,451	80,919
Postage	13,488	11,475
Electric	7,544	8,988
PC Hardware and Software	5,147	-
Office Supplies	2,614	3,877
Telephone and Data Lines	1,518	2,809
Equipment Rentals	1,398	2,463
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	378	-
Other Professional Services	240	670
Employee Travel and Mileage	82	119
Total Direct Expenditures	\$ 368,412	\$ 352,471

Note 1: The revenue figure per the County of \$137,012 differs from the amount disbursed to the County by the *District Court* of \$147,127. This results from the use of the cash basis of accounting by the *District Court* and the modified accrual basis of accounting by the County. The *District Court* recognizes the disbursement as of the check date, while the County recognizes the revenue in the year the fines and costs are collected by the *District Court*.

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02

GENERAL INFORMATION

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 and 2012
(Unaudited)**

- (1) A comparison of the case load between 2013 and 2012 is as follows:

<u>Docket Description</u>	<u>Case Load</u>	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Traffic	3,505	3,812
Non-traffic	533	596
Civil	230	308
Landlord/Tenant	215	154
Criminal	<u>358</u>	<u>332</u>
Total cases docketed for the year	<u>4,841</u>	<u>5,202</u>

- (2) The *District Court's* support staff was comprised of five (5) full time individuals during 2013.



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NORMAN MACQUEEN
Controller

April 22, 2014

Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi
231 Boot Road
Downingtown, PA 19335

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters

In planning our audit of the financial statements of District Court 15-4-02 (*District Court*) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the *District Court's* internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the *District Court's* internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the *District Court's* internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all significant deficiencies or material weaknesses have been identified.

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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the *District Court's* financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the *District Court's* financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, 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*.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters

We noted certain matters that we reported to management of the *District Court* in a separate letter dated April 22, 2014, regarding cash adjustments and stale-dated checks.

This report is intended for the information of the Chester County Commissioners, the Chester County Court of Common Pleas, the Auditor General of Pennsylvania, and all other political affiliates served by the *District Court*. This report is, however, a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.



Norman MacQueen
Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-02
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

An exit conference was not warranted for the audit of Magisterial District Court 15-4-02. Magisterial District Judge Jeffrey J. Valocchi accepted the audit report and management letter as presented.