

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



*Audit Report
Magisterial District Court 15-4-01
For the year ended December 31, 2008*

Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III, Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
AUDIT OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

M.D.J. Jeremy M. Blackburn
District Court 15-4-01
500 Chesterbrook Blvd., Suite C6
Wayne, PA 19087-5603

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01

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COUNTY OF CHESTER

OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

2 N. HIGH STREET, SUITE 540, P.O. BOX 2748, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-0991
TELEPHONE: (610) 344-6155 FAX: (610) 344-6750

VALENTINO F. DIGIORGIO, III
Controller

December 15, 2009

District Court 15-4-01
500 Chesterbrook Blvd., Suite C6
Wayne, PA 19087-5603

Internal Audit has audited the accounts of Magisterial District Court 15-4-01 (*District Court*) as of December 31, 2008, and has compiled the attached Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the related Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash Balance for the year then ended. It is Internal Audit's responsibility 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*. It is management's responsibility to maintain, update, and reconcile these accounts on a continuous basis.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit in a manner that will provide *reasonable assurance* that the accounts are free of material misstatement and that amounts are properly supported and approved.

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, the statements referred to above are not intended to present the financial position and results of operations of the *District Court* in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the accounts of the *District Court* are stated fairly as of December 31, 2008. Consequently, the corresponding financial statements prepared by Internal Audit present fairly, in all material respects, the assets and liabilities of the *District Court* as of December 31, 2008, and the cash receipts, disbursements, and cash balance for the year then ended.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, Internal Audit has also issued a report dated December 15, 2009 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.

Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III
Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
DECEMBER 31, 2008

ASSETS

Cash – Checking Account		\$ 22,146
Cash – Petty Cash/Change Fund		<u>150</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 22,296</u>

LIABILITIES

Undisbursed Funds:		
Commonwealth	\$ 2,602	
County of Chester	6,647	
Municipalities	6,985	
Bail, Restitution, and Collateral	<u>5,912</u>	
Total Undisbursed Funds		\$ 22,146
Due to County – Petty Cash/Change Fund		<u>150</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 22,296</u>

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

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

Cash Balance – Checking Account, January 1, 2008		\$ 33,588
Receipts:	(Fines, Costs, Bail, Restitution, and Collateral)	\$ 646,757
Disbursements:		
Commonwealth		\$ 366,294
County of Chester		107,384
Municipalities:		
Tredyffrin Township		82,223
Bail, Restitution, and Collateral		<u>102,298</u>
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 658,199</u>
Excess of disbursements over receipts		<u>(11,442)</u>
Cash Balance – Checking Account, December 31, 2008		<u>\$ 22,146</u>

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

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

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 that 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 (Jeremy Blackburn) for the year ended December 31, 2008.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

COUNTY OF CHESTER

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01

SCHEDULE OF COUNTY OF CHESTER REVENUES AND DIRECT EXPENDITURES

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007
(Unaudited)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Revenues:		
County Fines and Costs	<u>\$ 105,137</u>	<u>\$ 118,553</u>
Direct Expenditures:		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 144,323	\$ 144,301
Fringe Benefits	61,111	59,707
Office Rent	94,142	98,056
Postage	8,716	7,785
Office Supplies	1,971	2,092
Telephone/Data lines	8,064	7,161
Equipment Rental	360	60
Equipment – Non-Capitalized	6,477	0
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	0	476
Furniture & Equipment	0	1,471
Other General Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>17</u>
Total Direct Expenditures	<u>\$ 325,164</u>	<u>\$ 321,126</u>

Note 1: The revenue figure per the County of \$105,137 differs from the amount disbursed to the County by the *District Court* of \$107,384. 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 15-4-01

GENERAL INFORMATION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 and 2007
(Unaudited)

(1) A comparison of the case load between 2008 and 2007 is as follows:

<u>Docket Description</u>	<u>Case Load</u>	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Traffic	4,288	4,883
Non-traffic	163	180
Civil	235	150
Criminal	<u>199</u>	<u>175</u>
Total cases docketed for the year	<u>4,885</u>	<u>5,388</u>

(2) The *District Court's* support staff was comprised of 4 full-time individuals and 1 part-time individual during 2008.



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December 15, 2009

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Report on Compliance and on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, the scope of our audit included an examination and evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of the *District Court's* system of internal control and the *District Court's* quality of performance in carrying out assigned responsibilities. The primary objectives of internal controls include the following:

- Safeguarding of assets
- Reliability and integrity of information
- Compliance with policies, procedures, laws and regulations
- Compliance with provisions of contracts and lease agreements.

In addition, generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) require that auditors obtain an understanding of the internal control process and assess control risk in financial statement audits. For a financial statement audit, internal control is defined as a process which is designed to provide reasonable assurance that objectives regarding the reliability of financial reporting, the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and the compliance with applicable laws and regulations are achieved. The internal control process consists of five components. They are the *control environment, risk assessment, information and communication, monitoring, and control activities*.

The *control environment* sets the tone of the organization and is the foundation for all other components of internal control. The collective effect of various important factors defines the *control environment*, which in turn establishes, enhances, or mitigates the effectiveness of policies and procedures. These important factors include the entity's organizational structure and methods of assigning authority and responsibility.

The *risk assessment* is the entity's identification and analysis of relevant risks to the achievement of its objectives, and forms a basis for determining how the risks should be managed.

Information and communication are the identification, capture, and exchange of information in a form and time frame that enables people to carry out their responsibilities.

Monitoring is a process that assesses the quality of internal control performance over time.

Report on Compliance and on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting (continued)

Control activities are the policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out. These policies and procedures may be classified as:

- Authorization
- Segregation of duties
- Documentation
- Physical safeguards
- Independent checks and balances.

Our audit disclosed no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses that, in our opinion, pose a significant risk to the *District Court*, the County of Chester, or any other political subdivision served by the *District Court*.

Findings of a lesser significance in the area of cash and compliance, specifically:

- Internal control with respect to escheated/stale checks
- Compliance with policies/procedures with respect to undisbursed funds

have been addressed under separate cover with the management of the *District Court* for its action and/or response. Copies of the Management Letter will be made available upon request.

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.



Valentino F. DiGiorgio, III
Controller

COUNTY OF CHESTER
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT 15-4-01
SUMMARY OF EXIT CONFERENCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

On December 11, 2009, Magisterial District Judge Jeremy M. Blackburn indicated through a written confirmation, that an exit conference would be waived this year. The Magisterial District Judge has accepted the Audit Report and Management Letter as presented.