



AUDIT REPORT

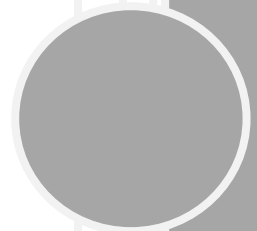
DALLAS COUNTY

STATE FORFEITURE - DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHAPTER 59 - FY2022

Darryl D. Thomas
Dallas County Auditor

ISSUED: 3/30/2023

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State Forfeiture - District Attorney Chapter 59 - FY2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MANAGEMENT LETTER	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
INTRODUCTION	5
DETAILS	6

This report is intended for the information and use of the agency/department. While we have reviewed internal controls and financial reports, this review will not necessarily disclose all matters of a material weakness. It is the responsibility of the department to establish and maintain effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to the department



DALLAS COUNTY
COUNTY AUDITOR

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable John Creuzot
District Attorney
Dallas, Texas

Attached is the County Auditor's final report entitled "**State Forfeiture - District Attorney Chapter 59 - FY2022**" Report. In order to reduce paper usage, a hard copy will not be sent through in house mail except to the auditee.

In you prefer that released reports be emailed to a different (or additional) recipient, please inform me of the name and the change will be made.

Respectfully,

Darryl D. Thomas

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County Auditor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District Attorney's (DA) Office manages cases in court for other departments and other cities within Texas. In order to obtain money and property that was seized due to illegal activity, the District Attorney Civil section must go to court on behalf of the city /department wanting to take ownership of seized items. Most cities and county agencies maintain their seized funds while cases are pending. However, the District Attorney's Office maintains funds seized by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Seized funds cannot be spent until an order of forfeiture is signed by a judge. The District Attorney's Office receives a fee of 20% to 30% of the forfeited funds depending on agreements between the District Attorney's Office and the law enforcement agencies. The office also receives a designated amount for property. The District Attorney's Office retains 100% of forfeited property and/or cash on cases initiated by the DA's Office. The summary of significant observations is below:

Summary of Significant Observations

- None identified

Repeat observations from Previous Audits:

- None identified

Tests were performed for the limited purpose of compiling financial transactions in format required by the Texas Attorney General. A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of control 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.

Only those weaknesses which have come to our attention as a result of the audit have been reported. It is the responsibility of the department management to establish and maintain effective internal control over compliance with the requirement of laws, regulations, and contracts applicable to the department.

INTRODUCTION

Dallas County Auditor's Office mission is to provide responsible, progressive leadership by accomplishing the following:

- Comply with applicable laws and regulations
- Safeguard and monitor the assets of the County utilizing sound fiscal policies
- Assess risk and establish and administer adequate internal controls
- Accurately record and report financial transactions of the County
- Ensure accurate and timely processing of amounts due to County employees and vendors
- Set an example of honesty, fairness and professionalism for Dallas County government
- Provide services with integrity
- Work in partnership with all departments to resolve all issues of the County
- Strive to utilize the latest efficient and effective technology in the performance of tasks
- Provide technical support and training in the development, implementation, and maintenance of information systems
- Hold ourselves accountable to the citizens of the County at all times
- Be responsive to the elected officials and department heads of Dallas County

The objectives of this audit are to:

1. Ensure compliance with statutory requirements
2. Evaluate internal controls
3. Verification of accuracy and completeness of reporting
4. Review controls over safeguarding of assets

This audit covered the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

The audit procedures will include interviews with key process owners, observation of transactions processing, data analysis and sample testing of transactions. The main system used will also be reviewed and incorporated as part of the testing of transactions. Internal controls for financial management by the District Attorney including purchasing, accounting, compliance, inventory, and reporting are tested at year-end.

DALLAS COUNTY



COUNTY AUDITOR

DETAILS

cc: Darryl Martin, Commissioners Court Administrator