

GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of County Auditor

Randall Rice CPA CISA CIO, County Auditor
Kristin Bulanek CIA, First Assistant County Auditor

P.O. Box 1418, Galveston, Texas 77553

(409) 770-5304

722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

April 25, 2017

Honorable Mark A. Henry, County Judge, and
Members of the Commissioners Court

Honorable Mark A. Henry and Members of the Court:

Attached for your acceptance for filing is the Quarterly Audit Report for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 (Galveston, La Marque and Crystal Beach locations). The audit covered the period from January 2017 through March 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rice CPA".

Randall Rice CPA
County Auditor

cc: Honorable Penny Pope

Attachment: Quarterly Audit Report, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3

GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of County Auditor

Randall Rice CPA CISA CIO, County Auditor
Kristin Bulanek CIA, First Assistant County Auditor

P.O. Box 1418, Galveston, Texas 77553

(409) 770-5304

722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

April 17, 2017

Honorable Penny Pope
Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3
600 59th Street
Galveston, Texas 77551

Honorable Penny Pope:

The Galveston County Auditor's Office has examined the collections and monthly reports submitted by Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3 (Galveston, La Marque and Crystal Beach locations) for the months of January 2017 through March 2017. The scope of the examination was limited to reviewing the records submitted to this office by Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3. The objectives of the examination were to verify all funds collected were accounted for and deposited with the County Treasurer and the required monthly reports were submitted in a timely manner.

- All funds collected were accounted for during the review.
- Funds collected were deposited with the County Treasurer in compliance with LGC §113.022 Time for Making Deposits and CCP §103.004 Disposition of Collected Money.

During the audit, Internal Audit found partial payments made by credit cards are returned to the defendant if a time payment agreement was not submitted. Internal Audit has asked for an opinion from the County Legal Department regarding this business procedure.

Private Collection Fees

The collection contract between Galveston County and Perdue, Brandon, Field, Collins & Mott states the county shall pay the firm by the 20th day of each month all compensation earned by the firm for the previous month. County policy requires the JP offices to submit a purchase request by the 5th day of the following month. Once a PO is issued, adequate forms and support documentation shall be submitted to Accounts Payable. It is the responsibility of the court to monitor the status of the purchase orders to verify payment is made. The office is in compliance with the collection contract and county policy.

OMNI Fees

Transportation Code §706.006 Payment of Administration Fee states a person who fails to appear for a complaint or citation for an offense described in this chapter shall be required to pay an administrative fee of \$30 for each complaint or citation reported to the Department of Public Safety. Transportation Code §706.007 states of each fee

April 17, 2017

Page 2

collected under Section 706.006, the county shall send \$20 to the comptroller on or before the last day of each calendar quarter. County policy requires the JP offices to submit a purchase request by the 5th day of the following month. Once a PO is issued, adequate forms and support documentation shall be submitted to Accounts Payable. It is the responsibility of the court to monitor the status of the purchase orders to verify payment is made. The office is in compliance with Transportation Code §706 and county policy.

Parks and Wildlife Fees

PAW §31.128 Disposition of Fines states a justice of the peace receiving any fine imposed by a court for a violation of this chapter shall remit 85% of the fine, for justice court cases, to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. County policy requires the JP offices to submit a purchase request by the 5th day of the following month. Once a PO is issued, adequate forms and support documentation shall be submitted to Accounts Payable. It is the responsibility of the court to monitor the status of the purchase orders to verify payment is made. The office is in compliance with PAW §31.128 and county policy.

Bond Bank Reconciliations

Properly prepared and adequately supported bank reconciliations are one of the best methods of cash management available to any official. The reconciliation process identifies any discrepancies in the bond account and assists in preventing the misuse of funds. County policy requires the JP offices to submit a bank reconciliation for the bond account to the Auditor's Office, including adequate support documentation, by the 5th day of the following month, no later than the 15th.

Finding: The February 2017 bond bank reconciliation was not submitted in a timely manner and the office did not submit a bond bank reconciliation for March 2017.

Recommendation JP3-17-01: Submit the March bond bank reconciliation to the Auditor's Office as soon as possible. For all future reports, submit them by the 5th day of the following month, no later than the 15th.

This report will be submitted to Commissioners Court on April 25, 2017. Please contact Lori McWhirter, Internal Audit Manager, at (409) 770-5356 if you have any questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Randall Rice CPA
County Auditor