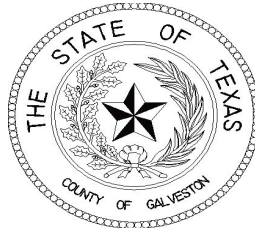


GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of the County Auditor

Sergio Cruz
County Auditor
Christie Motogbe, CPA
First Assistant County Auditor

P.O. Box 1418, Galveston, Texas 77553

(409) 770-5300

722 Moody Ave, 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

February 16, 2026

Honorable Mark A. Henry, County Judge, and
Members of the Commissioners Court
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Honorable Mark A. Henry and Members of the Court:

Attached to be received and filed is the internal audit report on the cash count of the Tax Office's Galveston, Santa Fe, Texas City, Crystal Beach, League City and Friendswood branch locations. Also attached is the response letter from Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson, dated January 27, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sergio Cruz".

Sergio Cruz
County Auditor

cc: Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson

Attachment: FY 2026 Tax Office Cash Counts Internal Audit Report

GALVESTON COUNTY



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722 Moody Ave, 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

To: Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson
Galveston County Tax Assessor/Collector

From: Sergio Cruz *SC*
County Auditor

Date: January 26, 2026

Re: FY 2026 Cash Counts of the Tax Office's Galveston, Santa Fe, Texas City, Crystal Beach, League City and Friendswood Branch Locations

Surprise cash counts of the Tax Office's Galveston, Santa Fe, Texas City, Crystal Beach, League City and Friendswood branch locations were conducted from December 16, 2025 through January 23, 2026. The objectives of the cash counts were to (a) determine if all collections had been accounted for at the time of the cash count, and (b) determine if the collections were properly handled and deposited in a timely manner.

Collections Accounted

At the times of the surprise cash counts, all collections and change funds were accounted for at all branch locations, including \$17,800.00 in change funds.

Collections Handled Properly

It's a very important control for collections to be properly handled and deposited in a timely manner. For collections to be handled properly, they must be safeguarded against loss; therefore, all negotiable instruments must be kept secured at all times and deposited on a daily basis. Collections were handled properly and all negotiable instruments were secured and deposited on a daily basis.

Deposited in a Timely Manner

Local Government Code (LGC) §113.022 Time for Making Deposits states that money collected shall be deposited with the County Treasurer on or before the next regular business day after the date on which the money is received. If this deadline cannot be met, the office must deposit the money, without exception, on or before the fifth business day after the day on which the money is received. All collections were deposited and in compliance with LGC §113.022.

Conclusion

At the time of the surprise cash counts, all collections were accounted for at the Galveston, Santa Fe, Texas City, Crystal Beach, League City and Friendswood branch locations. Cash drawers not in use were locked and stored in a locked safe at all times.

We would like to commend the Tax Assessor/Collector and her staff for their continuous effort to ensure efficiency of the close out process and security of collections, and for their cooperation and assistance in the audit.



Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC, CTOP
Galveston County Tax Assessor/Collector

722 Moody, Galveston, Texas 77550
cheryl.e.johnson@co.galveston.tx.us
1-409-766-2260



January 27, 2026

Mr. Sergio Cruz
Galveston County Auditor
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Re: Fiscal Year 2026 Cash Count Audit of
GCTO Branch & Satellite Offices

Dear Mr. Cruz:

Thank you for providing the above referenced audit for my review.

It appears once again that no response is necessary to your audit as the findings reflected that our close out processes, security of collections and change funds were once again without finding and handled properly in compliance with Local Government Code Section 113.022 at all Tax Office locations.

Many thanks to you and your team for working effectively with my office to ensure proper handling of the public's funds. Our many successes in the County Tax Office would not have been possible without a great Operations team responsible for the work with the oversight and guidance of a very hands-on management and leadership team. Additionally, the high level of expertise provided by your team further ensures our success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl E. Johnson".

Cheryl E. Johnson

cc: Kathleen Moreno, CTOP, Chief Deputy Business Services
Heather Niblock, CTOP, Branch Coordinator
Celeste McGilberry, Internal Auditor, Galveston County Auditor's Office
Lori McWhirter, Internal Auditor, Galveston County Auditor's Office