

AUDITOR'S REPORT

FEDERAL SEIZED AND FORFEITED ASSETS



December 12, 2023

**Michael Post, CPA, CIA
Harris County Auditor**

Leslie Wilks Garcia, M.Jur., CPA, CFE
First Assistant County Auditor
Accounting Division



1001 Preston, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002-1817
(832) 927-4600

Errika Perkins, CPA, CIA, CFE
Chief Assistant County Auditor
Audit Division

Fax (713) 755-8932
Help Line (832) 927-4558

MICHAEL POST, CPA, CIA
HARRIS COUNTY AUDITOR

December 12, 2023

Dear Law Enforcement Agency Leadership:

The Harris County Auditor's Office Internal Audit Division performed an audit to examine the Harris County Law Enforcement Agencies' Federal Seized and Forfeited Assets for the 12 months ending September 30, 2023. The audit included Constable's Offices for Precinct 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8, County Attorney's, District Attorney's, and Sheriff's Office. Assurance and Advisory Services examined bank accounts for federal seized and forfeited assets, and related revenues and disbursements for the period. The audit was performed in accordance with Texas Local Government Code (LGC) §115.0035 and the Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The objectives of the audit were to selectively test whether:

- A sample of forfeited assets bank account statements reconciled to their respective balances recorded in the County's financial system – Shared Technologies & Reporting System (STARS).
- All forfeited assets provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury were accurately and timely recorded in County's Financial System.
- A sample of disbursements from the respective Law Enforcement Agency forfeited assets bank accounts were properly authorized, appropriately supported, and accurately recorded in the County's Financial System.
- A sample of disbursements from the respective Law Enforcement Agency forfeited assets bank accounts complied with the permissible use requirements of U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification was submitted no later than 60 days after fiscal year end.

Results

In connection with the procedures performed, no reportable issues were noted.

Accountability

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards). The Standards require that we comply with the Code of Ethics and obtain reasonable assurance that significant risks to the activity are minimized to an acceptable level.

The work performed required our staff to exercise professional judgment in completing the engagement's scope. As the engagement's scope did not include a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that fraud, errors, or omissions were not detected during this engagement. The official, therefore, retains the responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of their financial records and for ensuring sufficient controls are in place to detect and prevent fraud, errors, or omissions.

We appreciate the time and attention provided by you and your staff during this audit. Please anticipate an email request to complete the Internal Audit Division's Post Engagement Survey. We look forward to your feedback. If you have any questions, please contact me or Errika Perkins, Chief Assistant County Auditor, 713-274-5673.

Sincerely,



Michael Post
County Auditor

cc:

District Judges
County Judge Lina Hidalgo

Commissioner Lesley Briones
Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Commissioner Adrian Garcia

Commissioner Tom Ramsey
County Attorney Christian Menefee