

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Parishes of Lincoln and Union, Louisiana**

*Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*



**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Table of Contents  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1-3
Management's Discussion and Analysis	4-7
<b>Basic Financial Statements</b>	
Government-wide Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Position	9
Statement of Activities	10
Fund Financial Statements	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Fund	11
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Fund	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	3-19
<b>Supplemental Information</b>	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule	21
Notes to Budgetary Comparison Schedule	22
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments To Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	23
Act 87 Justice System Funding Schedule – Receiving Entity	24
Independent Auditors' Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	25-26
Schedule of Findings and Responses	27-28
Schedule of Prior Year Findings	29
Management's Corrective Action Plan	30

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Third Judicial Public Defender Fund  
Ruston, Louisiana

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and aggregate remaining fund information of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 4-7 and 21-22 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility and management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and

comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of compensation, reimbursements, benefits and other payments to agency head on page 23, the accompanying Act 87 Justice System Funding Schedule – Receiving Entity on page 24, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 13, 2024, on our consideration of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Cameron Hines & Company (APAC)*

West Monroe, Louisiana  
December 13, 2024

# **Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**

## **Management's Discussion And Analysis**

### **For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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The management of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund offers readers of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund (Fund) financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This management discussion and analysis ("MD&A") is designed to provide an objective analysis of the Fund's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, and conditions. It is intended to provide readers with a broad overview of the Fund's finances. It is also intended to provide readers with an analysis of the Fund's short-term and long-term activities based on information presented in the financial report and fiscal policies that have been adopted by the Fund. Specifically, this section is designed to assist the reader in focusing on significant financial issues, provide an overview of the Fund's financial activity, identify changes in the Fund's financial position (its ability to address the next and subsequent year challenges), identify any material deviations from the financial plan (the approved budget), and identify individual fund issues or concerns.

#### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- The assets of the Fund, on a government-wide basis, exceeded its liabilities at June 30, 2024 by \$686,946. Of this amount, \$302,202 is unrestricted. Assets exceeded liabilities by \$779,157 at June 30, 2023. Of this amount, \$386,592 was unrestricted.
- The Fund's total net position decreased by \$92,211 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The Fund's total net position decreased by \$141,067 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.
- The unassigned fund balance of the general fund was \$302,202 at June 30, 2024 and \$386,592 at June 30, 2023 or 44.60% and 60.34% of the total general fund expenditures, respectively.
- The general fund reported \$84,390 excess of expenditures over revenues at June 30, 2024. The general fund reported \$133,245 excess of expenditures over revenues at June 30, 2023.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Fund's basic financial statements. The Fund's basic financial statements consist of the government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information, which is in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

#### **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

Government-wide financial statements are designed by GASB Statement No. 34 to change the way in which governmental financial statements are presented. It now provides readers with a concise "entity-wide" Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities, which seek to give the user of the financial statements a broad overview of the Fund's financial position and results of operations in a manner similar to private sector businesses.

# Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund

## Management's Discussion And Analysis

### For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The statement of net position presents information on all of the Fund's assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private sector companies. The difference between the two is reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Fund is improving or weakening.

The statement of activities presents information which shows how the government's net assets changed during this fiscal year. All changes in net assets are reported as soon as the underlying event occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future periods (e.g. uncollected fines).

#### Government-wide Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net assets may, over time, serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At the close of the most recent period, the Fund's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$686,945 (net position); this represents a decrease of \$92,212 from the last fiscal year. Of this total net position amount, \$302,202 is unrestricted net position. The Fund's net assets are comprised of \$302,202 from governmental activities. The following is a condensed statement of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's net assets as of June 30, 2024:

	Governmental-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>				
Current & Other Assets	\$ 305,318	\$ 388,226	\$ 305,318	\$ 388,226
Capital Assets (net)	384,744	392,565	384,744	392,565
Total Assets	<u>690,062</u>	<u>780,791</u>	<u>690,062</u>	<u>780,791</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Other Liabilities	\$ 3,116	\$ 1,634	\$ 3,116	\$ 1,634
Long-term Liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	<u>3,116</u>	<u>1,634</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>1,634</u>
<b>Net Position</b>				
Invested in Capital Assets, net	384,744	392,565	384,744	392,565
Unrestricted	302,202	386,592	302,202	386,592
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 686,946</u>	<u>\$ 779,157</u>	<u>\$ 686,946</u>	<u>\$ 779,157</u>

The Fund has an unrestricted net position of \$302,202, which may be used to meet the government's on-going obligation to citizens and creditors.

The Fund had no long-term debt.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Management's Discussion And Analysis  
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

The following is a summary of the statement of activities:

	Governmental-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>				
Program Revenue	\$ 587,043	\$ 501,735	\$ 587,043	\$ 501,735
General Revenue & Transfers	6,130	5,715	6,130	5,715
Total Revenue	<u>593,173</u>	<u>507,450</u>	<u>593,173</u>	<u>507,450</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Judicial	600,988	573,000	600,988	573,000
General & Administrative	84,396	75,517	84,396	75,517
Total Expenses	<u>685,384</u>	<u>648,517</u>	<u>685,384</u>	<u>648,517</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(92,211)	(141,067)	(92,211)	(141,067)
Net Assets, Beginning	<u>779,157</u>	<u>920,224</u>	<u>779,157</u>	<u>920,224</u>
Net Assets, Ending	\$ <u><u>686,946</u></u>	\$ <u><u>779,157</u></u>	\$ <u><u>686,946</u></u>	\$ <u><u>779,157</u></u>

Total revenues increased \$85,723, or 16.89% from the prior period.

Expenses increased \$36,868, or 5.68% from the prior period.

**Governmental Activities**

The governmental activities of the Fund include judicial activities. Revenues associated with support for public defenders such as fees and grants are sufficient for the funding of these activities.

**Business-type Activities**

The Fund does not have any business-type activities.

**Fund Financial Statements – Governmental Funds**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the Fund's most significant funds – not the Fund as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that the Fund uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for a particular purpose.

The Fund adopts an annual budget for the General Fund. A statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the General Fund is presented in the Required Supplemental Information (Schedule 1), which compares actual revenues and expenditures to the original budget and amended budget (if applicable) figures.



# **Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund Management's Discussion And Analysis For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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## **Financial Analysis of the Fund's Governmental Fund**

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's governmental fund (General Fund) reported an ending fund balance of \$302,202, which is a decrease of \$84,390. The entire ending fund balance of \$302,202 is unreserved.

## **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

The difference between the General Fund final budgeted revenues and actual revenues for the year ended June 30, 2024, totaled \$102,673, a positive variance. The actual expenditures were less than the final budgeted expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2024, by \$2,037, a positive variance.

## **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

The Fund invested \$-0- in capital assets during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

## **Current Financial Factors**

The Fund is working diligently to gain more revenue while decreasing expenses.

## **Request for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's finances for all with an interest in the government's operations. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to:

Rick Lane Candler, District Public Defender  
Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
609 North Trenton Street  
Ruston, LA 71270

## **Basic Financial Statements**

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2024**

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	<b><u>Governmental Activities</u></b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 261,017
Receivables	44,301
Capital Assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>384,744</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 690,062</u></u></b>
 <b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 3,116</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u><u>3,116</u></u></b>
 <b>Net Position</b>	
Invested in Capital Assets, net of Related Debt	384,744
Unrestricted	<u>302,202</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b><u><u>\$ 686,946</u></u></b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	Program Revenues				Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets		
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Capital Grants and Contributions	Operating Grants and Contributions	Primary Government		
					Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Primary Government:</b>							
Governmental Activities:							
Judiciary	\$ 685,384	\$ 81,426	\$ -	\$ 27,185	\$ (576,773)	\$ -	\$ (576,773)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 685,384	\$ 81,426	\$ -	\$ 27,185	\$ (576,773)	\$ -	\$ (576,773)
Business-Type Activities:							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Business-Type Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Primary Government	\$ 685,384	\$ 81,426	\$ -	\$ 27,185	\$ (576,773)	\$ -	\$ (576,773)
<b>General Revenues:</b>							
Court Costs on Fines					478,432	-	478,432
Miscellaneous					800	-	800
Interest Income					5,330	-	5,330
Total General Revenues, Special Items, and Transfers					484,562	-	484,562
<b>Changes in Net Position</b>					(92,211)	-	(92,211)
<b>Net Position - Beginning</b>					779,157	-	779,157
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>					\$ 686,946	\$ -	\$ 686,946

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund**  
**June 30, 2024**

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	<b>General Fund</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 261,017
Receivables	44,301
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 305,318</u></u>
 <b>Liabilities And Fund Equity</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,116
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><u>3,116</u></u>
 <b>Fund Equity</b>	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	\$ 302,202
<b>Total Fund Equity</b>	<u><u>302,202</u></u>
 <b>Total Liabilities And Fund Equity</b>	<u><u>\$ 305,318</u></u>

**Reconciliation to Statement of Net Position:**

*Amounts reported for Governmental Activities in the statement of net position are different because:*

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore not reported in the funds.

Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 302,202
Cost of Capital Assets	408,878
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(24,134)
Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 686,946</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Governmental Fund**  
**For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

**Revenues**

State Government	
General Appropriations	\$ 27,185
Special Appropriations	-
Local Government	
Statutory Fines, Forfeitures, Fees, Court Costs, etc,	478,432
Charges for Services	81,426
Miscellaneous	800
Investment Earnings	5,330
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>593,173</u>

**Expenditures - Judicial**

**Personnel Services and Benefits**

Salaries	35,360
Employee Benefits	3,102
Payroll Taxes	519
<b>Total</b>	<u>38,981</u>

**Travel and Training**

Travel	341
<b>Total</b>	<u>341</u>

**Operating Services**

Insurance	3,965
Office Supplies & Expenses	1,435
Repairs & Maintenance	1,006
Utilities and Telephone	7,131
Other	2,058
<b>Total</b>	<u>15,595</u>

**Professional Services**

Contract Services - Attorneys	600,988
Contract Services - Other	21,658
<b>Total</b>	<u>622,646</u>

**Capital Outlay**

Capital Outlay	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>-</u>

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>677,563</u>
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<b>Excess of Expenditures over Revenues</b>	(84,390)
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**Fund Balance:**

Beginning of Period	386,592
End of Period	<u>\$ 302,202</u>

Total Change in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ (84,390)
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*Amounts reported for governmental activities in the  
Statement of Activities are different because:*

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures while governmental activities  
report depreciation expense to allocate those expenditures over the life of the assets:

Capital assets purchased capitalized	-
Depreciation expense	(7,821)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (92,211)</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

# **Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund, established in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 15:144-149, provides counsel to represent indigents (needy individuals) in criminal and quasi-criminal cases at the district level. The judicial district encompasses the parishes of Lincoln and Union. House Bill No. 436, adopted in the 2007 Regular Legislative Session created Louisiana Public Defender Funds within each judicial district, transferring all obligations, duties, powers, and responsibilities from the previous boards. Revenues to finance the Fund's operations are provided primarily from court costs on fines imposed by the various courts within the district. The Fund has one employee and has contracts with its District Defender and other attorneys to provide legal services to indigents.

#### **1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Fund (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The accompanying basic financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GASB Statement 34, *Basic Financial Statements-and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments*, issued in June 1999.

##### **B. REPORTING ENTITY**

The public defender fund is part of the operations of the Louisiana Public Defender Board. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund.

##### **C. FUND ACCOUNTING**

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions relating to certain Fund functions or activities. A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

##### **Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds account for all or most of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's general activities. These funds focus on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations of the Fund. The following are the Fund's governmental funds:

# **Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**General fund** – the primary operating fund of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund and it accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds. The General Fund is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred in accordance with state and federal laws and according to Fund policy.

#### **D. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

##### **Fund Financial Statements (FFS)**

The amounts reflected in the General Fund are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances report on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund operations.

The amounts reflected in the General Fund use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources. The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

##### **Revenues**

Court costs on fines and forfeitures are recorded in the year they are collected by the appropriate courts. Fees from indigents are recorded when received. Interest income is recorded in the year in which it is earned.

##### **Expenditures**

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred.

##### **Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)**

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities display information about the Fund as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund. Information contained in these statements reflect the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed). Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.



# **Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Program Revenues** – Program revenues included in the column labeled Statement of Activities are derived directly from Fund users as a fee for services; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the Fund’s general revenues.

#### **E. FUND EQUITY**

GASB Statement No. 54 establishes standards for five fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of resources reported in governmental funds. The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form – prepaid items or inventories; or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

The spendable portion of the fund balance comprises the remaining four classifications: restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

*Restricted Fund Balance* - This classification reflects the constraints imposed on resources either (a) externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

*Committed Fund Balance* – These amounts can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal resolutions of the District Defender – the government’s highest level of decision making authority. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District Defender removes the specified use by taking the same type of action imposing the commitment. This classification also includes contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

*Assigned Fund Balance* – This classification reflects the amounts constrained by the District Defender’s “intent” to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The District Defender has the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes. Assigned fund balances include all remaining amounts (except negative balances) that are reported in governmental funds, other than the general fund, that are not classified as nonspendable and are neither restricted nor committed.

*Unassigned Fund Balance* - This fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund. It is used to report negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District Defender’s policy to use externally restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources – committed, assigned and unassigned – in order as needed.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**F. BUDGETS**

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund uses the following budget practices:

The Fund adopted a budget for the year ended June 30, 2024 for the General Fund. The Fund follows the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements. During the May meeting, the chief public defender submits to the board members a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. During the June meeting, the budget is legally enacted through passage of an ordinance. The public is invited to attend all meetings. The chief public defender is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any fund; however, any revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the board members. Appropriations lapse at the end of the year.

**G. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, and time deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

**H. INVESTMENTS**

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955 and the Fund's investment policy. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents.

GASB Statement No.31 requires the Fund to report investments at fair value in the balance sheet, except as follows:

1. Investments in *nonparticipating* interest-earning contracts, such as nonnegotiable certificates of deposit with redemption terms that do not consider market rates, should be reported using a cost-based measure, provided that the fair value of those contracts is not significantly affected by the impairment of the credit standing of the issuer or other factors.
2. The Fund may report at amortized cost money investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts that have a remaining maturity at time of purchase of one year or less, provided that the fair value of those investments is not significantly affected by the impairment of the credit standing of the issuer or other factors. Money market investments are short-term, highly liquid debt instruments that include U.S. Treasury obligations. Interest-earning investment contracts include time deposits with financial institutions (such as certificates of deposit), repurchase agreements, and guaranteed investment contracts.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**I. COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund does not have a formal leave policy.

**J. ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**K. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The Fund maintains a threshold of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

Capital assets are reported in the government-wide financial statements but not in the fund financial statements. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes by the Fund, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Buildings	40 Years
Furniture and Fixtures	5-10 Years
Equipment	5-20 Years

**2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

At June 30, 2024, the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$261,017 as follows:

Interest-bearing demand deposits	\$ 261,017
Total	\$ <u>261,017</u>

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

At June 30, 2024, the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund had \$308,321 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits are secured from risk by \$308,321 of federal deposit insurance and \$0 of pledged securities held by the custodial bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank. (GASB Category 3).

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, R.S. 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

**3. RECEIVABLES**

The receivables of \$44,301 at June 30, 2024, are as follows:

<u><b>Class of Receivable</b></u>	<u><b>General Fund</b></u>
Louisiana District Assistance Funds	\$ 10,833
Union Parish Court costs on fines	5,189
Lincoln Parish Court costs on fines	16,554
Ruston City Marshal Court Cost on fines	11,561
Other	164
Total	\$ <u>44,301</u>

**4. CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS**

The Fund's capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 consisted of:

	<u><b>Balance June 30, 2023</b></u>	<u><b>Additions</b></u>	<u><b>Deletions</b></u>	<u><b>Balance June 30, 2024</b></u>
<b>Capital Assets:</b>				
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$ 5,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,384
Building & Improvements	403,494	-	-	403,494
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<u>408,878</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,878</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	16,313	7,821	-	24,134
Net Capital Assets	\$ <u>392,565</u>	\$ <u>7,821</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>384,744</u>

Depreciation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 was \$7,821.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**5. ACCOUNTS, SALARIES, AND OTHER PAYABLES**

The payables of \$3,116 at June 30, 2024, consisted of accounts payable of \$2,809 and accrued liabilities of \$307.

**6. GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the major sources of governmental fund revenues and expenditures were as follows:

**Revenues**

**State Government**

Appropriations – General	\$ 27,185
Total	<u>27,185</u>

**Local Government**

Statutory fines, forfeitures, fees court costs, other	478,432
Total	<u>478,432</u>

**Charges for Services** 81,426

**Investment Earnings** 5,330

**Miscellaneous** 800

**Total Revenues** \$ 593,173

**Expenditures**

**Personnel Services and Benefits**

Salaries	\$ 35,360
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	<u>3,621</u>

**Total Personnel Services and Benefits** 38,981

**Travel and Training**

Travel 341

**Operating Services**

Insurance	\$ 3,965
Office Supplies and Expenses	1,435
Repairs and Maintenance	1,006
Utilities and Telephone	7,131
Other	<u>2,058</u>

**Total Operating Services** 15,595

**Professional Services**

Contract Services – Attorney & Legal	600,988
Contract Services – Other	<u>21,658</u>

**Total Professional Services** 622,646

Capital Outlay -

**Total Expenditures** \$ 677,563

**7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

**Date of Management Evaluation**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 13, 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

## **Supplemental Information**

**Third Judicial Public Defender Fund**  
**Budgetary Comparison Schedule**  
**General Fund**  
**For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</b>
<b>Revenues</b>				
State Government				
General Appropriations	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 27,185	\$ 9,185
Special Appropriations	-	-	-	-
Local Government				
Statutory Fines, Forfeitures, Fees, Court Costs, etc,	451,000	451,000	478,432	27,432
Charges for Services	17,500	17,500	81,426	63,926
Miscellaneous	-	-	800	800
Investment Earnings	4,000	4,000	5,330	1,330
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>490,500</u>	<u>490,500</u>	<u>593,173</u>	<u>102,673</u>
<b>Expenditures - Judicial</b>				
<b>Personnel Services and Benefits</b>				
Salaries	35,000	35,000	35,360	(360)
Employee Benefits	4,500	4,500	3,102	1,398
Payroll Taxes	3,500	3,500	519	2,981
<b>Travel and Training</b>				
Travel	1,500	1,500	341	1,159
<b>Operating Services</b>				
Insurance	16,300	16,300	3,965	12,335
Office Supplies & Expenses	1,750	1,750	1,435	315
Repairs & Maintenance	4,000	4,000	1,006	2,994
Utilities and Telephone	8,050	8,050	7,131	919
Other	5,000	5,000	2,058	2,942
<b>Professional Services</b>				
Contract Services - Attorneys	588,000	588,000	600,988	(12,988)
Contract Services - Other	12,000	12,000	21,658	(9,658)
<b>Capital Outlay</b>				
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>679,600</u>	<u>679,600</u>	<u>677,563</u>	<u>2,037</u>
<b>Excess of Expenditures over Revenues</b>	(189,100)	(189,100)	(84,390)	104,710
<b>Fund Balance:</b>				
Beginning of Period	386,592	386,592	386,592	-
End of Period	<u>\$ 197,492</u>	<u>\$ 197,492</u>	<u>\$ 302,202</u>	<u>\$ 104,710</u>

See independent auditors' report.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Notes to Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The Fund annually adopts a budget for the General Fund. All appropriations are legally controlled at the Fund level for operations. In May, 2023, the Fund prepared and presented its original budget to the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

The budgetary data, as presented in the financial statements for all funds with annual budgets, compare the expenditures with the amended budgets (if any). All budgets are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, the accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedule for the Fund presents actual expenditures in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States on a basis consistent with the legally adopted budgets as amended. Unexpended appropriations on annual budgets lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

See independent auditors' report.



**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Schedule of Compensation, Reimbursements,  
Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head  
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Agency Head:**

District Public Defender

**Rick  
Candler**

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**Purpose:**

Salary	\$ 103,875
Benefits - Payroll Taxes and Insurance	-
Travel	-
Reimbursements	113
<b>Total Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments</b>	<b><u>\$ 103,988</u></b>

See independent auditors' report.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Justice System Funding Schedule - Receiving Entity**  
**As Required by Act 87 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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	First Six Month Period Ended 12/31/2023	Second Six Month Period Ended 6/30/2024
<b>Cash Basis Presentation</b>		
<b>Receipts From:</b>		
Lincoln Parish Sheriff, Bond Fees	\$ 18,047	\$ -
Union Parish Sheriff, Bond Fees	262	14,554
Third Judicial District Attorney, Bond Fees	-	-
Lincoln Parish Sheriff, Court Costs and Court Fees	85,641	103,966
Union Parish Sheriff, Court Costs and Court Fees	7,519	12,947
Ruston City Marshal, Court Costs and Court Fees	100,820	89,268
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>\$ 212,289</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 220,735</u></u>

See independent auditors' report.

# CAMERON, HINES & COMPANY

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)

**Certified Public Accountants**

104 Regency Place

West Monroe, Louisiana 71291

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 2474

West Monroe, LA 71294-2474

Phone (318) 323-1717

Fax (318) 322-5121

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Parishes of Lincoln and Union, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, and each major fund of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of 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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

West Monroe, Louisiana  
December 13, 2024

*Cameron, Hines & Company (APAC)*

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Schedule of Findings and Responses  
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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We have audited the financial statements of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit of the financial statements as of June 30, 2024, resulted in an unmodified opinion.

**Section I- Summary of Auditors' Reports**

**A. Report on Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<b><u>Internal Control</u></b>		
Material Weaknesses		X
Significant Deficiencies		X
<b><u>Compliance</u></b>		
Noncompliance Material to Financial Statements		X

**B. Federal Awards – N/A**

**C. Identification of Major Programs – N/A**

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Schedule of Findings and Responses  
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Section II- Financial Statement Findings**

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**Section III- Federal Award Findings and Question Costs**

This section is not applicable for this entity.

**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
Schedule of Prior Year Findings  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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**Internal Control and Compliance Material to the Financial Statements**

There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2023.

**Management Letter**

No management letter was issued.

**Third Judicial Public Defender Fund  
Management's Corrective Action Plan  
For The Year Ended June 30, 2024**

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There were no findings for the year ended June 30, 2024.



**Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund**  
**Parishes of Lincoln and Union, Louisiana**

*Independent Accountants' Report on  
Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures*

*For the Year Ended June 30, 2024*



# CAMERON, HINES & COMPANY

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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund  
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund (the Defender) has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### ***1) Written Policies and Procedures***

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- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe whether they address each of the following categories and subcategories if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations:<sup>1</sup>
  - i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
  - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated, (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list, (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders, (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law, and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
  - iv. ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g., periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

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<sup>1</sup> For governmental organizations, the practitioner may eliminate those categories and subcategories not applicable to the organization's operations. For quasi-public organizations, including nonprofits, the practitioner may eliminate those categories and subcategories not applicable to public funds administered by the quasi-public.

- v. ***Payroll/Personnel***, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. ***Contracting***, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. ***Travel and Expense Reimbursement***, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. ***Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase cards, if applicable)***, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. ***Ethics***<sup>2</sup>, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. ***Debt Service***, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. ***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. ***Prevention of Sexual Harassment***, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

**Findings:** The entity does not have any written policies and procedures.

## **2) Board or Finance Committee<sup>3</sup>**

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and
  - i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
  - ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund,

<sup>2</sup> The Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities but may be applicable in certain situations, such as councils on aging. If the Ethics Code is applicable to a nonprofit, the nonprofit should have written policies and procedures relating to ethics.

<sup>3</sup> These procedures are not applicable to entities managed by a single elected official, such as a sheriff or assessor.

quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds<sup>4</sup>, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the not-for-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds<sup>5</sup> if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*

- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.<sup>6</sup>

**Findings:** The Defender is an independent official and operates without the aid of a board or council. This procedure is not applicable.

### **3) Bank Reconciliations**

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- A. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts<sup>7</sup> (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
  - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated or electronically logged);
  - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
  - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

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<sup>4</sup>Proprietary fund types are defined under GASB standards and include enterprise and internal service funds. The related procedure addresses these funds as a way to verify that boards are provided with financial information necessary to make informed decisions about entity operations, including proprietary operations that are not required to be budgeted under the Local Government Budget Act.

<sup>5</sup> R.S. 24:513 (A)(1)(b)(iv) defines public funds.

<sup>6</sup> No exception is necessary if management's opinion is that the cost of taking corrective action for findings related to improper segregation of duties or inadequate design of controls over the preparation of the financial statements being audited exceeds the benefits of correcting those findings.

<sup>7</sup> Accounts selected may exclude savings and investment accounts that are not part of the entity's daily business operations.

#### 4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)<sup>8</sup>

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- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites<sup>9</sup> for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations<sup>10</sup> and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (e.g., 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if there are no written policies or procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that
  - i. Employees responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
  - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g., pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit;
  - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit; and
  - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternatively, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
  - i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.<sup>11</sup>
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

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<sup>8</sup> The Collections category is not required to be performed if the entity has a third-party contractor performing all collection functions (e.g., receiving collections, preparing deposits, and making deposits).

<sup>9</sup> A deposit site is a physical location where a deposit is prepared and reconciled.

<sup>10</sup> A collection location is a physical location where cash is collected. An entity may have one or more collection locations whose collections are brought to a deposit site for deposit. For example, in a school district a collection location may be a classroom and a deposit site may be the school office. For school boards only, the practitioner should consider the deposit site and collection location to be the same if there is a central person (secretary or bookkeeper) through which collections are deposited.

<sup>11</sup> The practitioner is not required to test for completeness of revenues relative to classroom collections by teachers.

- iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt<sup>12</sup> at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

**Findings:** One exception noted where the deposit was not supported by a receipt, therefore, we were unable to determine whether the receipt was sequentially pre-numbered, the receipts were traced to the deposit slip, or that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location. One exception noted where the documentation for funds received was not dated, therefore, we were unable to determine whether the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location.

#### ***5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)***

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- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
  - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

*[Note: Findings related to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality) should not be reported.]*
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and

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<sup>12</sup> As required by Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1212.

- ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

#### ***6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (Cards)***

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards<sup>13</sup>. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). Obtain supporting documentation, and
  - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved) by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials, such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported); and
  - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (e.g., each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection)<sup>14</sup>. For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the action and observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

**Findings:** The entity does not have credit cards, debit cards, fuel cards, or purchase cards. This procedure is not applicable.

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<sup>13</sup> Including cards used by school staff for either school operations or student activity fund operations.

<sup>14</sup> For example, if 3 of the 5 cards selected were fuel cards, transactions would only be selected for each of the 2 credit cards. Conceivably, if all 5 cards randomly selected under procedure #7B were fuel cards, procedure #7C would not be applicable.

## **7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements<sup>15</sup> (excluding card transactions)**

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements and obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected
- i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov));
  - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;
  - iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
  - iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

**Findings:** One exception noted where the expense was not reviewed and approved by someone other than the employee who was reimbursed.

## **8) Contracts**

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- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternatively, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and
- i. Observe whether the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law<sup>16</sup> (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law;
  - ii. Observe whether the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g., Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter);
  - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g., change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
  - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

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<sup>15</sup> Non-travel reimbursements are not required to be inspected under this category.

<sup>16</sup> If the entity has adopted the state Procurement Code, replace "Louisiana Public Bid Law" with "Louisiana Procurement Code."



**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

#### ***9) Payroll and Personnel***

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- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials<sup>17</sup> employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and
  - i. Observe that all selected employees or officials<sup>18</sup> documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
  - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials;
  - iii. Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
  - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agrees to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

#### ***10) Ethics<sup>19</sup>***

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
  - i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and

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<sup>17</sup> "Officials" would include those elected, as well as board members who are appointed.

<sup>18</sup> Generally, officials are not eligible to earn leave and do not document their attendance and leave. However, if the official is earning leave according to a policy and/or contract, the official should document his/her daily attendance and leave.

<sup>19</sup> The Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities but may be applicable in certain situations, such as councils on aging. If the Ethics Code is applicable to a nonprofit, the procedures should be performed.

- ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

### ***11) Debt Service<sup>20</sup>***

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- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

**Findings:** The entity does not have any debt instruments. This procedure is not applicable.

### ***12) Fraud Notice<sup>21</sup>***

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- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted, on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

### ***13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***

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- A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**

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<sup>20</sup> This AUP category is generally not applicable to nonprofit entities. However, if applicable, the procedures should be performed.

<sup>21</sup> Observation may be limited to those premises that are visited during the performance of other procedures under the AUPs and the notice is available for download at [www.la.gov/hotline](http://www.la.gov/hotline)

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
  - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
  - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267<sup>22</sup>. The requirements are as follows:
- i. Hired before June 9, 2020 - completed the training; and
  - ii. Hired on or after June 9, 2020 - completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

**Findings:** We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

#### ***14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment<sup>23</sup>***

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- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).

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<sup>22</sup> While it appears to be a good practice for charter schools to ensure its employees are trained to keep their information technology assets safe from cyberattack, charter schools do not appear required to comply with 42:1267. An individual charter school, though, through specific provisions of its charter, may mandate that all employees/officials receive cybersecurity training.

<sup>23</sup> While it appears to be a good practice for charter schools to ensure it has policies and training for sexual harassment, charter schools do not appear required to comply with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment Law (R.S. 42:341 et seq). An individual charter school, through the specific provisions of its charter, may mandate sexual harassment training.

- C. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that the report includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
- i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
  - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
  - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
  - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
  - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

**Findings:** No exceptions noted.

### **Management's Response**

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We agree with the results of the procedures and will address the identified exceptions.

We were engaged by the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Third Judicial District Public Defender Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

*Cameron Hines & Company (APAC)*

West Monroe, Louisiana  
December 17, 2024