

OFFICIAL
FILE COPY
DO NOT SEND OUT

(Xerox necessary
copies from this
copy and PLACE
BACK IN FILE)

RECEIVED
LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
2000 JUN 30 AM 11:40

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
General Purpose Financial
Statements and Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
December 31, 1999

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 7/19/00

KEITH J. ROVIRA
Certified Public Accountant

CONTENTS

	<u>Statement</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Independent Auditor's Report		1
General Purpose Financial Statements:		
Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups	A	3
Governmental Fund - General Fund:		
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance	B	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual	C	5
Notes to the Financial Statements		7
Supplemental Information Schedule:		
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings and Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Audit Findings		19
Other Report Required by <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> :		
Report on Compliance and Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>		21

KEITH J. ROVIRA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
3331 METAIRIE ROAD
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-5297

(504) 831-4040

FAX (504) 831-4042

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

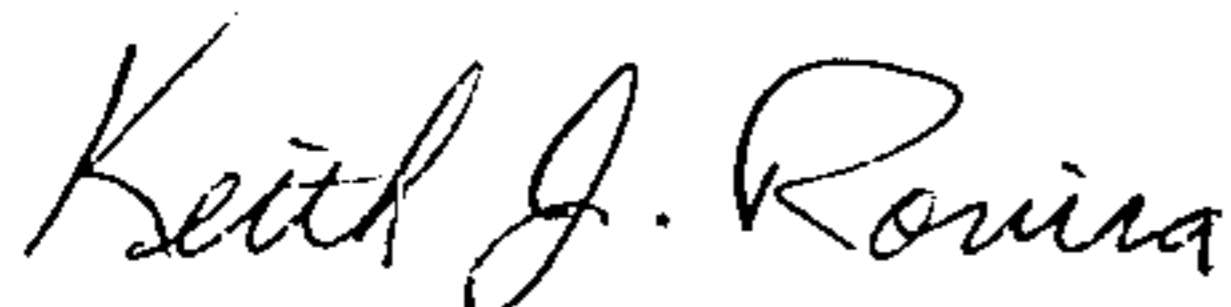
Honorable Patricia Schwarz Core
St. Tammany Parish Assessor
A Component Unit of the
St. Tammany Parish Council
Covington, Louisiana

I have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor, a component unit of the St. Tammany Parish Council, as of and for the year then ended December 31, 1999, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards contained in the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor as of December 31, 1999, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated June 13, 2000, on my consideration of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor's compliance and on internal control over financial reporting based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. This report is presented separately after the notes to the financial statements of this audit report.



Keith J. Rovira
Certified Public Accountant

June 13, 2000

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
 Covington, Louisiana
 Governmental Fund Type - General Fund
 Balance Sheet
 December 31, 1999

Statement A

	Governmental Fund - General Fund	Account Group - General Fixed Assets	Total (Memorandum Only)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents (Note C)	\$333,776	-	\$333,776
Investments (Note D)	131,026	-	131,026
Revenues receivable:			
Ad valorem taxes (net of allowance for uncollectible taxes of \$43,199)	1,396,735	-	1,396,735
State revenue sharing	87,475	-	87,475
Other	32,127	-	32,127
Office furnishings and equipment (Note E)	<u> -</u>	\$515,589	<u>515,589</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,981,139</u>	<u>\$515,589</u>	<u>\$2,496,728</u>
<u>LIABILITIES, EQUITY AND OTHER CREDITS</u>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$25,416	<u> -</u>	\$25,416
Total Liabilities	<u>25,416</u>	<u> -</u>	<u>25,416</u>
Equity and Other Credits:			
Investment in general fixed assets	-	\$515,589	515,589
Fund balance - unreserved- undesignated	<u>1,955,723</u>	<u> -</u>	<u>1,955,723</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>1,955,723</u>	<u>515,589</u>	<u>2,471,312</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, EQUITY AND OTHER CREDITS	<u>\$1,981,139</u>	<u>\$515,589</u>	<u>\$2,496,728</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
 Covington, Louisiana
 Governmental Fund Type - General Fund
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
 and Changes in Fund Balance
 For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

Statement B

<u>REVENUES</u>	
Ad valorem taxes	\$1,422,117
State revenue sharing	87,037
Interest earnings	30,785
Other	<u>20,900</u>
Total Revenues	<u>1,560,839</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Salaries and related expenditures	1,151,523
Operating services	163,292
Education	12,317
Office materials and supplies	69,511
Professional services	59,013
Travel and other related expenditures	8,881
Office rent	<u>10,800</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,475,337</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	85,502
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	<u>1,870,221</u>
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$1,955,723</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
 Covington, Louisiana
 Governmental Fund Type - General Fund
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
 Fund Balance - Budget (GAAP Basis) and Actual
 For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

Statement C

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Ad valorem taxes	\$1,350,000	\$1,422,117	\$72,117
State revenue sharing	77,000	87,037	10,037
Interest earnings	25,000	30,785	5,785
Other	<u>35,000</u>	<u>20,900</u>	<u>(14,100)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>1,487,000</u>	<u>1,560,839</u>	<u>73,839</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Salaries and related expenditures	975,000	1,151,523	(176,523)
Operating services	195,000	163,292	31,708
Education	54,000	12,317	41,683
Office materials and supplies	85,000	69,511	15,489
Professional services	95,000	59,013	35,987
Travel and other related expenditures	73,000	8,881	64,119
Capital outlay	95,000	-	95,000
Office rent	<u>11,000</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>200</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,583,000</u>	<u>1,475,337</u>	<u>107,663</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	(96,000)	85,502	181,502
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	<u>1,519,362</u>	<u>1,870,221</u>	<u>350,859</u>
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$1,423,362</u>	<u>\$1,955,723</u>	<u>\$532,361</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article VII, Section 24 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the assessor is elected by the voters of the parish and serves a four year term. The assessor assesses all real and movable property in the parish subject to ad valorem taxation. The assessor is authorized to appoint as many deputies as may be necessary for efficient operation of the office and provide assistance to the taxpayers of the parish. The deputies are authorized to perform all functions of the office, but the assessor is officially and pecuniarily responsible for the actions of the deputies.

The assessor has one office located in Covington and one office in Slidell in St. Tammany Parish. In accordance with Louisiana law, the assessor bases real and movable property assessments on conditions existing on January 1 of the tax year. The assessor completes an assessment listing for the tax year and submits the list to the parish governing authority and the Louisiana Tax Commission, as prescribed by law. Once the assessment listing is approved, the assessor submits the assessment roll to the parish tax collector, who is responsible for collecting and distributing taxes to the various taxing bodies located in the parish.

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying general purpose financial statements of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

2. Reporting Entity

As the governing authority of the parish, for reporting purposes, the St. Tammany Parish Council is the financial reporting entity for St. Tammany Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (St. Tammany Parish Council), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the St. Tammany Parish Council for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
 - a. the ability of the parish council to impose its will on that organization, and/or
 - b. the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the parish council.
2. Organizations for which the parish council does not appoint a voting majority, but are fiscally dependent on the parish council.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity's financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Even though the assessor is an independently elected official, and is legally separate from the parish council, the exclusion from the council's financial statements would cause the council's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Also, the assessor is fiscally dependent on the parish council when the council has approval authority over the assessor's capital budget. The parish council has approval authority over the assessor's capital budget because office space is furnished to the assessor by the council and title to real property is in the name of the council. Because of these reasons, the assessor is determined to be a component unit of the St. Tammany Parish Council.

3. Fund Accounting

The accounts of the assessor are organized on the basis of a fund (General Fund) and an account group (General Fixed Assets Account Group), each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of the General Fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures. Revenues are accounted for in the General Fund based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1906, is the principal fund of the assessor and accounts for the operation of the assessor's office. Ad valorem tax revenue is accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund. The General Fund is classified as a governmental fund type.

4. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied. The assessor's records are maintained on a cash basis of accounting. However, the funds reported in the accompanying financial statements have been converted to a modified accrual basis of accounting. The General Fund uses the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

Revenues:

Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis,

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31.

Revenues from state revenue sharing and payments in lieu of taxes are recorded in the year the revenues are due the assessor.

Interest earnings on time deposits are recorded when the time deposits have matured and the revenue is available.

Other revenue, which includes fees for tax roll preparation, is recorded when due.

Expenditures:

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

5. Budgets

The original proposed budget for the year ended December 31, 1999, was made available for public inspection at the assessor's office and advertised on December 16, 1998. The budget was adopted on December 29, 1998, after a public hearing on that day. The original budget was amended on December 30, 1999.

All budgets were prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting. The assessor reserves all authority to make changes to the budget.

Formal budget integration within the accounting records is employed as a management control device during the year. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the original adopted budget and all subsequent amendments.

All appropriations contained in the budget lapse at year end.

6. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash includes amounts in interest bearing demand deposits. Cash equivalents include amounts in certificates of deposit. Under state law, the assessor may deposit funds in demand deposits, money market

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

accounts, or certificates of deposit with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

Under state law, the district may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes or certificates, and other investments backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

All investments are stated at cost.

7. Receivables

Receivables are made up of ad valorem taxes, state revenue sharing and payments in lieu of taxes. For 1999, ad valorem tax receivables were recorded net of an estimated 3% uncollectible amount.

8. Fixed Assets and Long-Term Obligations

Fixed assets are accounted for in the general fixed assets account group, rather than in the General Fund. Fixed assets are valued at historical cost. No depreciation has been provided on fixed assets. The general fixed assets account group is not a fund. It is concerned only with the measurement of financial position and does not involve measurement of results of operations.

The value of all fixed assets approximates their cost.

Fixed assets provided by the parish are included in the General Fixed Assets Account Group.

There were no long-term obligations at December 31, 1999.

9. Compensated Absences

Employees of the assessor's office earn ten days of vacation leave per year and five days of sick leave per year. All leave time is granted on January 1 of each year. Vacation and sick leave must be taken during the year earned, and cannot be accumulated. Upon termination, resignation or retirement employees are not paid for any unused vacation or sick leave earned during the year. At December 31, 1999, there were no accumulated or vested benefits related to vacation and sick leave that require disclosure in accordance with GASB Codification C60.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

10. Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting is not utilized due to the nature of operations and the ability of management to monitor budgeted expenditures on a timely basis.

11. Total Column on Balance Sheet

The total column on the balance sheet is captioned Memorandum Only to indicate that it is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column does not present financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation.

NOTE B - LEVIED TAXES

Ad valorem taxes of 3.05 mills are authorized and levied for the operation of the assessor's office.

The following are the principal taxpayers for the parish:

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Assessec Valuation</u>
Central La. Elect. Co.	Utility	\$27,645,980	5.51%
BellSouth Inc.	Telephone	20,144,380	4.02
Hibernia National Bank	Bank	8,956,070	1.78
Bank One	Bank	8,681,170	1.73
Louisiana Gas Ser. Co.	Utility	3,920,600	.78
McKesson Corporation	Pharmaceutical	3,708,080	.74
Epic Development Inc.	Developer	3,574,130	.71
Wash. St. Tam. Elect.	Utility	3,496,470	.70
Parish National Bank	Bank	2,935,810	.59
Southern Natural Gas	Utility	<u>2,832,160</u>	<u>.56</u>
		<u>\$85,894,850</u>	<u>17.12%</u>

The total assessed valuation for all taxpayers at December 31, 1999, was \$501,376,735. This figure was used in calculating the percentage of the "assessed valuation of each of the ten largest taxpayers" listed above to the "total assessed valuation for all taxpayers."

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
 Covington, Louisiana
 Notes to the Financial Statements
 December 31, 1999

NOTE C - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At December 31, 1999, the carrying amounts (book balances) of all cash and cash equivalents of the assessor were as follows:

Interest bearing demand deposits	\$ 32,776
Certificates of deposits	<u>301,000</u>
Total	<u>\$333,776</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. At December 31, 1999, the assessor had \$359,119 in deposits (collected bank balances). At December 31, 1999, these deposits were secured from risk by \$336,655 of federal deposit insurance \$22,464 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 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 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 assessor that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE D - INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 1999, the assessor held the following types of investments:

<u>Type of Investment</u>	<u>Cost/ Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Treasury Securities Money Market Fund	\$131,026	\$131,026
Total	<u>\$131,026</u>	<u>\$131,026</u>

These investments are in the name of the fiscal agent bank and are held in its trust department. Because these investments are not in the name of the assessor and are not held by the assessor or its agent, the investments are considered uninsured and unregistered (GASB Category 3) for purposes of applying the credit risk of GASB Codification Section I50.164.

NOTE E - CHANGES IN GENERAL FIXED ASSETS

A summary of changes in general fixed assets (office furnishings and equipment) follows:

Balance, January 1, 1999	\$445,771
Additions	69,818
Deductions	<u> </u>
Balance, December 31, 1999	<u>\$515,589</u>

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE F - PENSION PLAN

Plan Description

Substantially all employees of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor's office are members of the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System (System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees.

All full-time employees who are under the age of 60 at the time of original employment and are not drawing retirement benefits from any other public retirement system in Louisiana are required to participate in the System. Employees who retire at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of credited service or at or after age 50 with at least 30 years of credited service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 percent of their final-average salary for each year of credited service, not to exceed 100 percent of their final-average salary. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least 12 years of service and do not withdraw their employee contributions may retire at or after age 55 and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Louisiana Assessor's Retirement System, Post Office Box 1786, Shreveport, Louisiana 71166-1786, or by calling (318)425-4446.

Funding Policy

Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 7.0 percent of their annual covered salary and the St. Tammany Parish Assessor is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.75 percent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (one percent for Orleans Parish) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish, plus revenue sharing appropriated by the legislature. The contribution requirements of plan members and the St. Tammany Parish Assessor are established and may be amended by state statute.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE F - PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The assessor's employer contributions to the System for the years ended December 31, 1999, 1998 and 1997, were \$59,840, \$45,942, and \$41,308 respectively, and these amounts equaled the required contributions for those years.

NOTE G - POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

The St. Tammany Parish Assessor provides certain continuing health care and life insurance benefits for retired employees. Substantially all of the assessor's employees become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the assessor. These benefits for retirees and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose monthly premiums are paid jointly by the employee and by the assessor. The assessor recognizes the cost of providing these benefits (assessor's portion of premiums) as an expenditure when paid during the year. For 1999, the total cost of benefits paid by the assessor for all active employees and retirees was \$149,847 and \$21,990, respectively.

NOTE H - LEASES

Operating Lease

Operating leases are all leases that do not meet the criteria of capital leases. The assessor's office was the lessor under one lease for a vehicle. All required monthly lease payments were made during the year. The minimum annual commitments under all noncancelable operating leases are as follows:

<u>Year Ended</u>	<u>Amount</u>
December 31, 2000	<u>\$7,480</u>
Total	<u>\$7,480</u>

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 1999

NOTE H - LEASES (CONTINUED)

Also, the assessor leased certain office space in addition to facilities provided by the Parish Council under an operating lease. The lease period is on a month-to-month basis. Office rent expenditure for the year ended December 31, 1999, totaled \$10,800.

There were no other operating or capital leases.

NOTE I - EXPENDITURES OF THE ASSESSOR NOT INCLUDED IN THE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Louisiana R.S. 33:4713 requires the parish council to provide the assessor with all necessary office space, utilities, furniture equipment, supplies, and maps. During the year, the council provided office space, utilities and janitorial services on a limited basis. The value of these items are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

The assessor has an office located in Covington and in Slidell in St. Tammany Parish.

NOTE J - LITIGATION

There was no pending or threatened litigation against the assessor's office at December 31, 1999, which would have a material adverse affect on the financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION SCHEDULE

ST. TAMMANY PARISH ASSESSOR
Covington, Louisiana
Supplemental Information Schedule
Summary Schedule of **Prior** Audit Findings
and
Corrective Action Plan for **Current** Year Audit Findings
For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

There were no prior or current year audit findings to report.

**OTHER REPORT REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

KEITH J. ROVIRA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
3331 METAIRIE ROAD
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-5297

(504) 831-4040

FAX (504) 831-4042

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable Patricia Schwarz Core
St. Tammany Parish Assessor
A Component Unit of the
St. Tammany Parish Council
Covington, Louisiana

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the St. Tammany Parish Assessor, a component unit of the St. Tammany Parish Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999, and have issued my report thereon dated June 13, 2000. I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

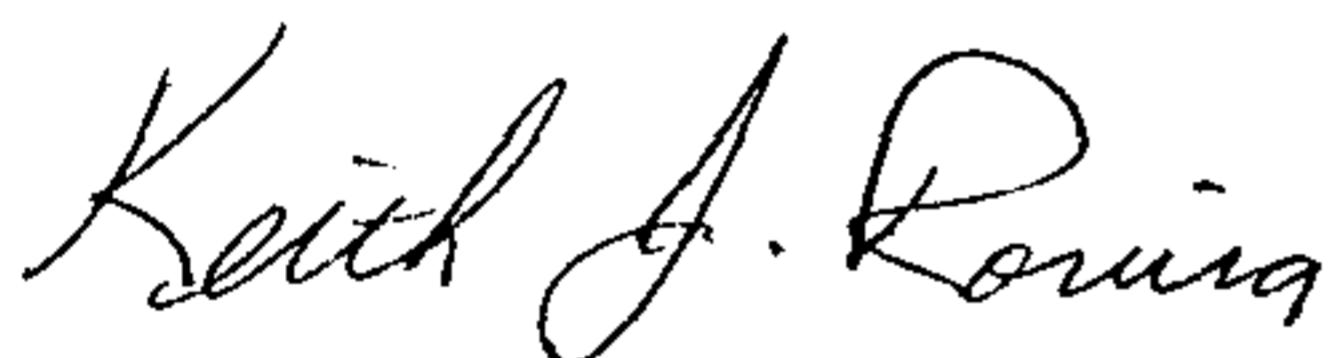
As a part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the St. Tammany Parish Assessor's general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations and contracts, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of the financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered the St. Tammany Parish Assessor's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the general purpose financial statements

and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operations that I consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the use of management and the State of Louisiana Legislative Auditor and should not be used for any other purpose. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report which, upon acceptance by the State of Louisiana Legislative Auditor, is a matter of public record.



Keith J. Rovira
Certified Public Accountant

June 13, 2000