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REPORT

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, 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 1999

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, NO. 1

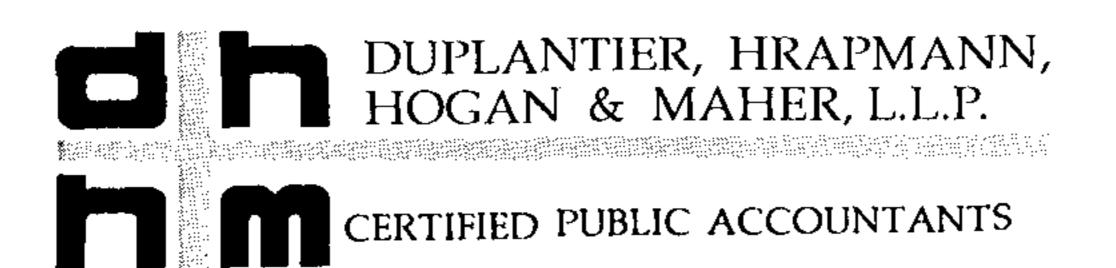
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MEMBERS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
SOCIETY OF LA. C.P.A.'S

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 11, 1999

Board of Directors Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company, No. 1 Marrero, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 1998, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the fire company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The financial statements of Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Co., No. 1 as of December 31, 1997 were audited by other auditors whose report dated April 30, 1998 expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 as of December 31, 1998, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information on page 12 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

As stated above, the financial statements of the Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 for the year ended December 31, 1997 were audited by other auditors. Their report, dated April 30, 1998, on the supplementary information on page 13 for the year ended December 31, 1997 stated that, in their opinion, such information was fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole for the year ended December 31, 1997.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 11, 1999 on our consideration of Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Dyslantiet, Brapmann, Hogan & Maher LLP

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

ASSETS

011bbeur 100cm	<u>19</u> 98	1997
CURRENT ASSETS: Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 1 and 2)	\$ 1,054,136	\$ 992,682
Total current assets	1,054,136	992,682
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT - (Notes 1 and 3) (NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION OF \$1,489,879 and \$1,398,725)	1,045,643	963,085
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,099,779	\$ 1,955,767
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES: Accounts payable Accrued salaries Accrued sick and vacation pay (Note 1) Retirement withholdings payable Payroll taxes payable Total current liabilities	\$ 925 9,776 17,520 1,437 5,400	\$ 5,944 8,421 18,570
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	2,064,721	1,922,832
Total net assets	2,064,721	1,922,832
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 2,099,779	\$ 1,955,767

See accompanying notes.

Marrero - Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

P. O. Box 206 Marrero, LA 70073

Members of the Louisiana State Fireman's Association

STATION 80 531 Avenue C. Marrero, LA 70072 STATION 81 808 McArthur Avenue Harvey, LA 70058

STATION 82 3649 Patriot Street D. Flarvey (L. 2, 70058

JERRY MELANSON, SR

President

WAYNE ALLEMAN

Fice-President

JERRY MELANSON, JR.

Secretary

CRAIG J. BELLANGER

Treasurer

RYAN ALLEMAN

Sgt. at Arms

LEO J. LEBLANC
Chief

DON ROBERTSON

Ist Asst. Chief
JAMES ROBERTSON
2nd Asst. Chief
TED Jr. WARD, JR
Fire Prevention Officer

June 11, 1999

Legislative Auditor Engagement Processing Post Office Box 94397 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9397

Dear Sir or Madam:

In the prior year our auditors disclosed the following instance of noncompliance.

97-1 Public Bid Law (LSA-R.S. 38:2212)

Condition:

During 1997, the Company purchased one new pumper truck for \$199,000 and contracted for the construction of a new ladder truck at a cost ranging from \$568,000 to \$599,000. The Company mailed requests for proposals to numerous suppliers of firefighting vehicles, and evaluated the responses in accordance with the provisions of LSA-R.S. 38:2212. However, the Company failed to publish the required advertisements in both cases.

Current Status:

In the current year, our auditors noted no instances of noncompliance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law. We are aware of the Public Bid Law and will advertise any subsequent purchases of equipment as required. Accordingly, we feel that there should be no similar findings in subsequent audits.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Yours very truly,

Jerry J. Me Janson, Presiden

Craig J. Bellanger, Treasurer

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:	1998	<u>199</u> 7
SUPPORT: Firefighting contract (Note 5) Donated firefighting services (Note 4) Interest Other income	\$ 853,930 31,671 24,118 14,009	\$ 855,188 29,640 25,012 11,893
Total support	923,728	921,733
EXPENSES: (Pages 12 and 13) Program services - firefighting Supporting services - management and general Total expenses	736,688 45,151 781,839	713,422 51,630 765,052
INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	141,889	156,681
Unrestricted net assets Prior period adjustment (Note 7)	1,922,832	1,705,319 60,832
Net assets beginning of year, as restated	1,922,832	1,766,151
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$ 2,064,721	\$ 1,922,832

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

0.044 EL0440 ED0M ODEDLITANO LONGUERTES		1998		1997
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: Increase in net assets Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets	\$	141,889	\$	156,681
to net cash provided by operating activities: Depreciation		96,397		99,640
Disposal of assets				37,202
Increase (decrease) in:				
Accounts payable		(5,019)		(48,346)
Accrued sick and vacation pay		(1,050)		18,570
Accrued salaries		1,355		
Retirement withholdings payable		1,437		
Payroll taxes payable		5,400	_	
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>-</u> .	240,409		263,747
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:				
Acquisition of equipment		(178,955)		(209,450)
Net cash used in investing activities	_	(178,955) (178,955)		(209,450) (209,450)
NET INCREASE IN CASH		61,454		54,297
Cash at beginning of year	_	992,682	-	938,385
CASH AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u>_</u>	1,054,136	\$;	992,682

ORGANIZATION:

Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 was established to provide firefighting and rescue service to a designated area of the Eighth Fire District on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (a separate entity). In addition, the fire company provides fire code inspections for businesses within its district, as well as firefighting and rescue training for its members. The fire company maintains three fire stations and has approximately seventeen paid employees and twenty-two active volunteers. The company's main source of revenue is a fire protection contract with Jefferson Parish. The department is under a ten (10) year contract signed September 2, 1994 and effective for the period April 1, 1994 through March 31, 2004.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

A summary of the fire company's significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation:

The fire company's policy is to prepare financial statements on the accrual basis. Under that basis, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

The fire company follows Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, Financial Statements of Nonprofit Organizations. Under SFAS No. 117, the fire company is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets; unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. In addition, the fire company is required to present a statement of cash flows. As of December 31, 1998 and 1997 the fire company had only unrestricted net assets.

The statement of activities presents expenses of the fire company's operations functionally between program services for firefighting and administrative and general. Those expenses which cannot be functionally categorized are allocated between functions based upon management's estimate of usage applicable to conducting those functions.

<u>Contributions and Donated Services:</u>

The fire company follows Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made. In accordance with SFAS No. 116, contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions.

SFAS No. 116 provides that the value of donated services is to be recognized in financial statements if the services require specialized skills, are provided by persons possessing those skills, and the services would be purchased if they were not donated. The fire company's volunteer firefighters undergo extensive specialized training, and the firefighting services would be purchased by the fire company of Jefferson Parish if the services were not provided by volunteers. Accordingly, donated firefighting services are recognized in the financial statements at estimated fair value.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Income Taxes:

The fire company is exempt from income taxes under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(4) as a nonprofit organization and thus these financial statements contain no provision for income taxes.

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the fire company has defined cash and cash equivalents as all items on the statement of financial position as cash in banks, money market accounts and certificates of deposit.

Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information:

	<u> 1998</u>	<u> 1997</u>
Cash paid during the year for:	.	d-
Interest	\$	>
Income taxes	=-	

Property and Equipment:

Property and equipment are stated at acquisition cost, or estimated historical cost if acquisition cost is not available. Depreciation is provided for in amounts sufficient to relate the cost of depreciable property and equipment to operations over their estimated useful lives using the straightline method. Estimated useful lives of property and equipment are as follows:

Automobiles	3 - 5 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 - 10 years
Firefighting and rescue equipment	3 - 12 years
Building improvements	30 years

<u>Concentration of Credit Risk:</u>

The fire company's income is derived primarily from the proceeds of an advalorem tax millage and other funding under a contract with the Jefferson Parish Council to support its firefighting and rescue services.

Compensated Absences:

Annual leave

Each qualified employee scheduled to work 50 hours or more per week will earn annual leave according to the following:

<u>Years of Continuous Service</u>	<u>Hours</u>
0 - 1 year 1 - 10 years	0 144
Over 10 years *	144+

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES: (Continued)

Compensated Absences: (Continued)

Annual leave (Continued)

* Employee earns 8 hours of additional leave for each year over 10 years up to a maximum of 240 hours after 22 years. Employees cannot exceed the accumulated hours they are allowed for their years of service at the end of the pay period which includes the last day of the month before the month that includes the employee's anniversary date.

Sick Leave

Each qualified employee employed on December 31, 1998 will be credited with 78 hours of sick leave as of January 1, 1999.

New employees after September 1, 1998, will be credited with three (3) hours of sick leave per pay period following the pay period that contains the date that is six (6) months after their initial anniversary date.

All employees hired before September 1, 1998, will earn three (3) hours of sick leave per pay period beginning with the first pay period after January 1, 1999. No partial accrual will be made at any time during the year.

An employee can accumulate up to 240 hours of sick leave that can be carried over to the next calendar year.

Any unused sick leave as of 12/31 of said year in excess of 240 hours, will be bought back at a rate of 1/2 to 1 hour at regular pay.

Upon termination of employment for any reason, the employee will be paid for any accumulated sick leave at a rate of 1/2 to 1 hour at regular pay.

Accrued leave was \$17,520 and \$18,570 for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively. The amounts are accrued on the statements of financial position in accrued sick and vacation pay.

Use of Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires 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 and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS:

At December 31, 1998 and 1997, the fire company maintained cash balances, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, and short-term investments in several local banks. The certificates of deposit and short-term investments are classified as cash equivalents as defined in Note 1. The bank balances and book balances were as follows:

	1998			1997			
	Book Balances	k Balances Bank Balances Book		<u>Balances</u>	Bank	Balances	
Cash and money market			·	 -			
accounts	\$1,006,363	\$1,003,923	\$	946,966	\$	950,892	
Certificates of deposit	47,773	47,773	_	45,716		<u>45,716</u>	
Total cash and cash							
equivalents	\$ <u>1,054,136</u>	\$ <u>1,051,696</u>	\$_	992 <u>,682</u>	\$,_	996,608	

The bank balance is insured by \$649,563 of federal deposit insurance, leaving \$402,133, uninsured at December 31, 1998. For the year ended December 31, 1997 the insured bank balance was \$510,847 leaving \$485,761 as the amount not covered by federal deposit insurance.

3. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

Below is a summary of activity in the fire company's property and equipment accounts during the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997:

	Balance	Dalanco		
	1/1/98	Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance <u>12/31/98</u>
Land Buildings Vehicles Firefighting equipment Furniture and fixtures Accumulated depreciation	\$ 89,218 649,812 1,209,200 388,607 24,973 2,361,810 1,398,725	\$ 178,955 178,955 96,397	\$ 5,243 5,243 5,243	\$ 89,218 649,812 1,388,155 388,607 19,730 2,535,522 1,489,879
Net property and equipment	\$ <u>963,085</u>	\$ <u>82,558</u>	\$ <u> </u>	\$ <u>1,045,643</u>
		199	<u>97</u>	
	Balance <u>1/1/97</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance <u>12/31/97</u>
Land Buildings Vehicles Firefighting equipment Furniture and fixtures Accumulated depreciation Net property and equipment	\$ 89,218 649,812 1,010,200 417,520 26,936 2,193,686 1,303,209 \$ 890,477	\$ 199,000 10,450 209,450 99,640 \$109,810	\$ 39,363 1,963 41,326 4,124 \$ 37,202	\$ 89,218 649,812 1,209,200 388,607 24,973 2,361,810 1,398,725 \$ 963,085

3. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: (Continued)

Included in the cost of vehicles for 1998 is a \$178,955 down payment on a new fire truck (see Note 7) not yet placed in service. Depreciation expense totaled \$96,397 and \$99,640 for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

The net amounts of \$5,243 and \$37,202 shown above constitutes assets that were consumed in firefighting operations during 1998 and 1997, respectively. For purposes of the statement of cash flows, use of these items is included in operating activities, as the disposal of the assets relates more directly to operating activities than investing activities.

4. DONATED SERVICES:

Marrero-Harvey volunteer firefighters responded to calls for service approximately 391 and 336 times during 1998 and 1997, respectively. The value of these volunteer services is computed using the minimum pay for the fire company's paid personnel during the year, multiplied by an average response duration of 1.50 hours, with the result multiplied by the number of rolls responded to by volunteers during the year. For 1998 and 1997, the minimum hourly pay was \$6.00 per hour for straight time, and there were approximately 391 and 336 responses by varying numbers of volunteer personnel, resulting in an approximate value of \$31,671 and \$29,640 for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively, for volunteer firefighting services, which is reported as revenue and firefighting expense.

This value should be recognized as the absolute minimum value of volunteer services, as it does not include any down-time maintenance time, or overtime, but includes only the time when volunteers were actually responding to calls for assistance. The actual cost of replacing the fire company's volunteers with paid firefighters would be significantly higher.

All members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation.

5. FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT:

Substantially, all of the fire company's public support is derived from funds provided by Jefferson Parish. On September 2, 1994, the fire company signed a ten year contract with Jefferson Parish, effective April 1, 1994, under which the fire company receives one-third of certain ad valorem taxes assessed within the 8th Fire Protection District of Jefferson Parish, as well as additional funding from sales taxes and fire insurance rebates. Total public support received under this contract totaled \$853,930 and \$855,188 during the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

6. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES:

Fire Truck:

On August 11, 1997, the fire company committed to purchase a new fire truck at a cost ranging from \$568,000 to \$599,000, based on alternative payment schedules. The truck will not be delivered until April 4, 1999, and the fire company has the right to reject delivery if its specifications are not met. During 1998 the fire company made a down payment on the fire truck in the amount of \$178,955 (see Note 3).

7. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT:

In 1994, the fire company recorded property and equipment on its statement of financial position for the first time. As historical cost records did not exist for numerous assets, these assets were recorded at estimated historical cost. During 1997, the fire company determined that one fire truck purchased prior to 1994 was recorded on the financial statements at \$100,000 less than its actual historical cost. Accordingly, an adjustment has been made at January 1, 1997, to increase property and equipment by \$100,000, increase accumulated depreciation by \$39,168, and increase unrestricted net assets by \$60,832. Had this entry been recorded in the prior years, the increase in net assets would have been reduced by approximately \$20,277 for each of the years ended December 31, 1994, 1995 and 1996.

8. RETIREMENT PLAN:

During 1998 the fire company approved a contributory retirement plan covering all paid employees effective July 1998. The fire company began contributing up to 3% of participating employees' annual salaries. The retirement expense for the plan for the year ended December 31, 1998 amounted to \$5,188.

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

	PROGRAM SERVICES	SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGEMENT	
	FIREFIGHTING	AND GENERAL	TOTAL
EXPENSES:		L	<u> </u>
Salaries and wages	\$ 428,549	\$ 3,000	\$ 431,549
Depreciation	96,397		96,397
Insurance	70,231		70,231
Payroll taxes	32,383		32,383
Donated firefighting services	31,671		31,671
Maintenance	29,366		29,366
Utilities		13,674	13,674
Firefighting supplies	9,121		9,121
Operating supplies	12,257	gree hours	12,257
Radio expense	9,448		9,448
Miscellaneous		9,010	9,010
Accounting and legal		5,329	5,329
Retirement expense	5,188	per les	5,188
Fuel	4,546		4,546
Equipment repair	2,200	gar. 5	2,200
Meals and consumables		4,651	4,651
Medical expenses		648	648
Office expense		7,747	7,747
Dues and subscriptions		1,092	1,092
Licenses	105		105
Building repairs	5,226		5,226
TOTAL	\$ 736,688	\$ 45,151	\$ 781,839

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

	PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES SERVICES MANAGEMENT					
	FIR	EFIGHTING	AND	GENERAL		_TATOT_
EXPENSES:						
Salaries and wages	\$	369,407	\$	3,000	\$	372,407
Depreciation		99,640				99,640
Insurance		74,984				74,984
Payroll taxes		30,237				30,237
Donated firefighting services		29,640				29,640
Maintenance		20,922				20,922
Utilities				18,568		18,568
Firefighting supplies		17,787				17,787
Operating supplies		37,514				37,514
Radio expense		19,122				19,122
Miscellaneous				8,171		B t
Accounting and legal				5,326		5,326
Fuel		4,789				4,789
Equipment repair		5,858				5,858
Meals and consumables				5,114		5,114
Medical expenses				1,638		1,638
Office expense				9,469		9,469
Dues and subscriptions				344		344
Licenses		118				118
Building reapirs		3,404	• ·		-	3,404
TOTAL	\$	713,422	\$ <u></u>	51,630	\$ ₌ .	765,052

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998

June 11, 1999

To the Board of Directors
Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire
Company No. 1
Marrero, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of Marrero-Harvey Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 (a nonprofit organization) as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated June 11, 1999.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller general of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the fire company's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, 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 that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the fire company's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Dur consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting 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 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. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of the Board of Directors, management and applicable parish, state or federal agencies. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

Duplantier, Hugemann, Hogan i Maker LLP

MARRERO-HARVEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

COMPLIANCE FINDING:

97-1 Public Bid Law (LSA-R.S. 38:2212)

Condition:

During 1997, the fire company purchased one new pumper truck for \$199,000 and contracted for the construction of a new ladder truck at a cost ranging from \$568,000 to \$599,000. The fire company mailed requests for proposals to numerous suppliers of firefighting vehicles, and evaluated the responses in accordance with the provisions of LSA-R.S. 38:2212. However, the fire company failed to publish the required advertisements in both cases.

Current Status:

In the current year, we noted no instances of noncompliance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law. Management is aware and will advertise any subsequent purchases of equipment as required. Accordingly, there were no similar findings during the current year audit.