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**LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF
(AS EX-OFFICIO PARISH TAX COLLECTOR)**
Lafayette, Louisiana

Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 1958

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

Release Date SEP 2 1958

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In accordance with COMPONENT ADDITIONAL SERVICES, we have also issued a report dated August 4, 1998 on our consideration of the Tax Collector Fund of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Internal Control over Financial Reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations.

Kolder, Champagne, Slaven & Rainey, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Lafayette, Louisiana
August 4, 1998

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF
Lafayette, Louisiana
Tax Collector Agency Fund

Statement of Collections, Distributions, and Unsettled Balances
Year Ended June 30, 1998

Unsettled balances, July 1, 1997	<u>\$ 421,348</u>
Collections:	
Ad valorem taxes	40,731,687
State revenue sharing	5,738,873
Spotting licenses	427,774
Parish occupational licenses	736,164
Interest on:	
Delinquent taxes	88,807
Deposit of taxes, licenses, etc.	200,207
Tax notices, etc.	43,800
Refunds and redemptions	378,287
Louisiana Tax Commission	<u>3,422</u>
Total collections	<u>48,508,829</u>
Total	<u>49,030,177</u>
Distributions:	
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	731,474
Louisiana Sea Commission	3,493
Lafayette Parish Development District	321,300
Lafayette Parish:	
Council	13,384,888
School Board	18,451,480
Airport District	734,888
Trout-Vermilion French Water District	538,413
Economic Development Authority	<u>1,185,454</u>
Bayou Vermilion District	488,124
Bayou Vermilion Maintenance	424,741
Sheriff	8,422,000
Special Assessment district	828,187
Pension Funds	1,527,788
Refunds and redemptions	411,476
Tax notices, etc.	<u>1,132</u>
Total Distributions	<u>42,128,122</u>
Unsettled balances, June 30, 1998, due to leasing bodies and others	<u>\$ 188,024</u> *****

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF
Lafayette, Louisiana

Notes to Financial Statements

(4) Summary of Louisiana Accounting Policies

As provided by Article V, Section 17 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector of the parish and is responsible for the collection and distribution of ad valorem property taxes, parish occupational licenses, state revenue sharing funds, and angling, boating, and trapping licenses.

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:517(B) requires that the accounts of such tax collector be audited annually. Accordingly, the accompanying statement reflects financial activity of the Sheriff relating only to his responsibility as ex-officio tax collector. Accounts included in this report are also included in the Sheriff's annual general purpose financial statements.

The accounts of the tax collector are established to reflect the collections imposed by law, distributions pursuant to such law, and unsettled balances due various taxing bodies and others. The accompanying financial statement has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, with collections recognized when received and distributions reflected when paid.

(5) Interest-Bearing Deposits

State law authorizes the Sheriff to deposit tax collections in a bank domiciled in the parish where the funds are collected. As June 30, 1988, the Sheriff has interest-bearing deposits (bank balances) totaling \$288,034 representing unsettled tax collections. Deposit balances (bank balances) at June 30, 1988 of \$288,034 are fully secured through federal deposit insurance and/or securities pledged.

(6) State Revenue Sharing Funds

The revenue sharing funds provided by Act 954 of 1982 received during the year were allocated among the taxing bodies as follows:

Economic Development Authority	\$ 140,140
Texas Vermilion Fresh Water District	14,854
Lafayette Parish:	
Council	618,436
School Board	1,710,188
Bayou Vermilion Maintenance	38,413
Special Assessment District	83,827
Law Enforcement District	718,118
Airport District	41,808
Parson Funds	52,528
Total	\$2,707,272

CAJACETTE PARISH SHERIFF
Lafayette, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued)

14) Unsettled Balances

The unsettled cash balance at June 30, 1998 of \$388,008 consists of the following:

Interest earned on deposits and delinquent taxes	\$ 1,118
Project taxes	348,790
Wildlife and Fisheries	<u>38,117</u>
	\$388,008

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

KOLDER, CHAMPAIGNE, SLAVEN & RAINEY, LLC

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

The Honorable Donald C. BIRSON
Lafayette Parish Sheriff as
His Official Tax Collector
Lafayette, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the Tax Collector Fund (agency fund) of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff for the year ended June 30, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 1999. 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.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector Fund's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of six provisions with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with these 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 Lafayette Parish Sheriff'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. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, would adversely affect the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

Finding:

Due to the small number of employees, the Sheriff did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

Recommendation:

Based upon the size of the operation and the cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of duties.

Response:

No response is considered necessary.

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 accounts 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. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. We believe the reportable condition described above is a material weakness.

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Kilger, Champagne, Stone & Rainey, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Maryville, Louisiana
August 4, 1999