

6840202
2129

ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF RECEIVED
(AS EX-OFFICIO PARISH TAX COLLECTOR)

APR 14 1998

DONALDSONVILLE, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1998

98402526
8182
13

GIORGIA
FILE COPY

DO NOT HAND OUT

Remove everything
except from this
envelope and PLACE
BACK IN FILE

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of this report has been furnished to the Auditor, or approved, acting and when any eligible public officials. It is subject to available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor, where appropriate, or the office of the parish clerk of court.

Prepared By: _____



Postlethwaite & Netterville

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

BATON ROUGE • DONALDSONVILLE • MONROE • NEW ORLEANS • ST. FRANCISVILLE
LOUISIANA

ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
AND ENFORCEMENT TAX COLLECTOR
MONROE, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1998



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Independent Auditors' Report	1 - 3
Financial Statements - Tax Collector Agency Fund	
Statement of Assets and Liabilities Arising from Cash Transactions	3
Statement of Collections, Distributions, and Unsettled Balances	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5 - 7
Other Reports Required by Government Auditing Standards:	
Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based on An Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards	8 - 9





Paschehwaite & Netterville

A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING FIRM
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

10000 WOODWAY DRIVE ■ PO BOX 10102 ■ MONROE, LOUISIANA 70001 ■ TELEPHONE (504) 835-4100 ■ FAX (504) 835-1000

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Jeff Wiley
ASSISTANT PARISH SHERIFF
(AN EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR)
Donaldsonville, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION PARISH SHERIFF** as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association Parish Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, 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. These 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 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 financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, Disclosure after Year 2000 Issues, requires disclosure of certain matters regarding the year 2000 issue. The Association Parish Sheriff has included such disclosures in Note 5. Because of the unprecedented nature of the 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation issues will not be fully determinable until the 2000 and thereafter. Accordingly, insufficient audit evidence to support Association Parish Sheriff's disclosures with respect to the year 2000 issue made in Note 5. Further, we do not provide assurance that the Association Parish Sheriff's or will be 2000 ready, that Association Parish Sheriff's year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with which Association Parish does business will be year 2000 ready.

As described in Note 1, the Association Parish Sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector for the various taxing bodies within Association Parish, and the accompanying statements present information only on the activities as parish tax collector and are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Association Parish Sheriff. Furthermore, the accompanying statements have been prepared on the basis of such receipts and such disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to examine such evidence regarding year 2000 disclosures, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION PARISH SHERIFF** as of June 30, 1998, and the collections, distributions, and unapplied balances of the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND** for the period from July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also based our report dated December 23, 1998 on our consideration of Assamice Parish Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as it relates to the tax collector agency fund and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants.

Forrest W. Smith, III

Donaldsonville, Louisiana
December 23, 1998

ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
Monroe, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
June 30, 1998

ASSETS

Cash	<u>\$ 388,610</u>
------	-------------------

LIABILITIES

Due to taxing bodies and others	<u>\$ 388,610</u>
---------------------------------	-------------------

ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

**STATEMENT OF COLLECTIONS, DISTRIBUTIONS,
AND UNSETTLED BALANCES**

FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 1995, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1996

UNSETTLED BALANCE AT JULY 1, 1995	2 <u>223,119</u>
COLLECTIONS	
All taxpayer taxes	
Current year	29,253,000
Prior year	23,684
Payroll Taxes - Current Year	204,850
State revenue sharing	1,488,119
Spending accounts	228,042
Parish license	21,400
Interest earned on	
Time deposits	63,345
Exchange rates	80,264
Fixed-rate funds	9,680
Mutual vehicle funds	1,550
Cash, notes, etc.	60,980
Refunds and reimbursements	86,670
Total collections	<u>31,802,420</u>
Total	<u>32,025,539</u>
DISTRIBUTIONS	
Louisiana Department of Treasury	1,386,690
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry	1,289
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	142,670
Ascension Parish	
Parish Council	3,886,818
School Board	81,992,768
Parishioner	128,227
Council	3,158,477
Hospital district	688
Atchafalaya Parish Lower District	87,838
Bayou La Bouchure Parks/Water District	10,283
Tax commissions	8,082
Prisoner funds	641,281
Refunds and reimbursements	172,844
Total distributions	<u>91,272,787</u>
UNSETTLED BALANCE AT JUNE 30, 1996	2 <u>355,651</u>
 DUE TO TAXING AGENCIES AND OTHERS	



ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
Deaithsboro, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR/AGENT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

As provided by Article V, Section 27 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector of the parish and is responsible for collecting and distributing ad valorem property taxes, parish occupational licenses, state revenue sharing, land, and sugarcane, hunting, and trapping licenses.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the parish tax collector are established to reflect the collections imposed by law, distributions pursuant to such laws, and uncollected balances due various taxing bodies and others. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, with collections recognized when received and distributions reflected when paid. As such, the accompanying financial statements do not reflect the receivables and related payables associated with tax collection activities.

B. Reporting Entity

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:113(K)(1)(b) requires that the accounts of each parish tax collector be audited annually. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements reflect financial activity of the sheriff relating only to his responsibility as ex-officio parish tax collector. Amounts included in these financial statements are also included in the sheriff's annual general purpose financial statements.

C. Cash and Cash Equivalents

State law authorizes the sheriff to deposit tax collections in a bank domiciled in the parish where the funds are collected. Furthermore, the sheriff may invest these deposits in certificates of deposit or other investments permitted by law.

2. Cash

At year end, the carrying amount of the parish tax collector's deposits was \$ 155,651 and the bank balance was \$ 146,629. Of the bank balance \$ 488,980 was covered by federal depository insurance and \$ 2,812,471 was covered by collateral held by the pledging bank's agent in the tax collector's name and \$ 1,899,080 at the fiscal agent bank in the name of the fiscal agent bank.



ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
 Bogalusa, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. State Revenue Sharing

The revenue sharing funds provided by Act 760 of 1990 were distributed as follows:

Louisiana Department of Treasury	\$	197,214
Ascension Parish Sheriff		
Police Jury		638,001
School Board		107,574
Assessor		84,076
Sheriff:		
Law enforcement		229,580
Commission		517,007
Atchafalaya Basin Levee District		7,850
Bayou LaPlante Flood Water District		6,793
Pondice funds		18,521
 Total	 \$	 1,440,119

4. Taxes Paid Under Protest

Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1536 provides that taxpayers, at the time of payment of all taxes due, give notice to the tax collector of their intention to file suit for recovery of all or a portion of the total taxes paid. Upon receipt of this notice, the amount paid will be segregated and held by the tax collector for a period of 30 days. If suit is filed within the 30-day period for recovery of such amounts, the funds segregated will be held pending outcome of the suit. If the taxpayer prevails, the tax collector will refund the amount due with interest at the rate of two per cent per annum from the date the funds were received by the tax collector.

The following is a summary of the transactions relating to protested taxes:

Balance, July 3, 1993	\$	65,130
 Additions:		
Current year protested taxes		254,820
Interest earnings		5,884
 Balance, June 30, 1998	 \$	 325,834

ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF
Broussard, St. Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Year 2000 Issues

The Year 2000 issue consists of two other concerns that make computer processing systems unable to read year-date data beyond the year 1999. The first shortcoming is that many computer programs contain abbreviated dates which eliminate the first two digits of the year. Therefore, some computer programs may recognize January 1, 2000 as January 1, 1900 and process data treatment by or using processing algorithms. The second shortcoming is that some computers will be unable to detect the year 2000 as a leap year and may not register the additional day and the data calculations may be incorrect.

Currently the Ascension Parish Sheriff is waiting for a software update that should bring the Tax Collector Fund and the Sponsumer's License Fund to 2000 compliant.



OTHER REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Pasletthwaite & Netterville

A Professional Accounting Corporation
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

100 MARKET STREET ■ PO BOX 1110 ■ HOUSTON, TEXAS 77201 ■ TELEPHONE 800-541-8170 ■ FAX 713-521-1100

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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 Art Wily
Assistant Parish Secretary
144 E. OFFICE TAX COLLECTOR
Bossier Parish, Louisiana

We have audited the financial statements of the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION PARISH SECRETARY** as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated December 23, 1998, which was qualified because insufficient audit evidence exists to support Association Parish Secretary's disclosure with respect to the year 2000 issue. Except as discussed in the preceding sentence, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Governor's Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION PARISH SECRETARY** 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 *Governor's Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the **TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND OF THE ASSOCIATION PARISH SECRETARY**'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. Our 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 misstatement 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 the material weaknesses. 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 Assessor Parish Sheriff, management and the Legislative Auditor. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Robert Smith, P. C. McQuinn

Donaldsonville, Louisiana
December 23, 1998