

**TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
WITH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
YEAR END JUNE 30, 2023

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MC DUFFIE K. HERROD, LTD.

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

Rhonda Covington
The District Public Defender
Twentieth Judicial District of Louisiana
P.O. Box 68
Clinton, Louisiana 70722

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender of Louisiana, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the management of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The management of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender 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; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to review engagements contained in *Governmental Auditing Standards* issued by the United States Comptroller General. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Required Supplementary Information

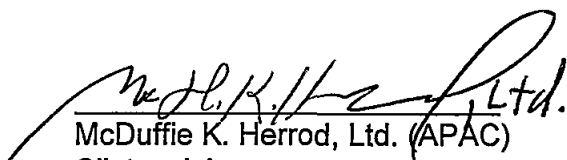
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required 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. The information is the responsibility of management. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have not audited the information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information.

Other Supplementary Information

The accompanying supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. This includes the Schedule of Compensation Paid to the Agency Head. This information is the representation of management. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have not audited the supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information.

The accompanying Justice System Funding Schedules (reporting schedules) are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with the reporting framework prescribed by Louisiana Statute 24:515.2 and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. We have not audited the supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information

In accordance with the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and the provisions of state law, we have issued a report dated December 28, 2023, on the results of our agreed-upon procedures.


McDuffie K. Herrod, Ltd. (APAC)
Clinton, LA
December 28, 2023

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (Part 1)
MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) is a required element of the reporting model adopted by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the financial activities of the District based on currently known facts, decisions or conditions.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

These financial statements are comprised of three components - (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements and, (3) notes to the financial statements. There is also other supplemental information contained in this report provided for additional information.

Government-wide Financial Statements. The government-wide financial statements present financial information for all activities of the Public Defender from an economic resource measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting. These provide both short-term and long-term information about the Public Defender's overall financial status. They include a statement of net assets and statement of activities.

Statement of Net Position. This statement presents information on all of the Public Defender's assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources with the difference between these 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 Public Defender is improving or not.

Statement of Activities. This statement presents information showing how the Public Defender's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event, giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. This statement is designed to show the Public Defender's financial reliance on general revenues.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 6-7 of this report.

Fund Financial Statements. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Public Defender uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender has only one category of funds: governmental funds.

Governmental Funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements except that the focus with fund statements is to provide a distinct view of the District's governmental funds only. These statements report short-term fiscal accountability emphasizing the use of spendable resources during the year and balances of spendable resources available at the end of the year.

Because the view of governmental funds is short-term and the view of the government-wide financial statements is long-term, it is useful to compare these two perspectives. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide reconciliation to the government-wide

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

statements to assist in understanding the differences between the two viewpoints.

Governmental funds of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender include a general fund that is used to account for all accounts not required to be accounted for separately and a special revenue fund used to account for proceeds legally restricted for the purpose of street maintenance.

Notes to the Financial Statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements and begin on page 12.

Other Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's budgetary comparisons that start on page 23. These schedules indicate the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's compliance with its adopted and final revised budgets.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Net position is an indicator of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's financial position from year to year. A summary of net position follows.

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets & Deferred Outflows		
Current and other assets	\$135,666	\$147,696
Investments	40,000	40,000
Capital assets, net	148,527	124,755
Net pension asset	0	103,366
Pension related outflows	106,851	17,575
Total Assets	<u>431,044</u>	<u>433,392</u>
Liabilities & Deferred Inflows		
Current liabilities	7,856	10,385
Deferred revenue	18,750	11,000
Net pension liability	81,925	0
Pension related Inflows	10,073	107,308
Total Liabilities & Deferred Inflows	<u>118,604</u>	<u>128,693</u>
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	148,527	124,755
Unrestricted	163,913	179,944
Net Position	<u>\$312,440</u>	<u>\$304,699</u>

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
JUNE 30, 2023

A summary of changes in net position is as follows:

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenues / Transfers		
General revenues:		
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 64,829	\$ 82,813
Pension related revenue	0	33,122
Grants and other contributions	434,137	338,152
Interest earned	87	117
Total Revenues	<u>499,053</u>	<u>454,204</u>
Total Expenses	<u>491,312</u>	<u>471,701</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 7,741</u>	<u>\$(17,497)</u>

CAPITAL ASSET AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets: The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and related debt at June 30, 2023 and 2022, was \$148,527 and \$124,755 respectively. There were \$30,039 asset additions for 2023.

The Public Defender has no long-term obligations.

BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The budget for 2023-24 does not anticipate any additional grant funding at this time. We will continue to search for avenues to obtain funding for improving the legal services provided within the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's boundaries as well as attracting competent attorneys to handle the caseload. This does present a challenge for improvements as well as operations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A copy of this report or additional information may be obtained by writing or contacting the Public Defender, P.O. Box 68, Clinton, Louisiana 70722, telephone number 225-683-3620.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & cash equivalents	\$	135,666
Accounts receivable, net		-
Investments		40,000
Total Current Assets		175,666

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$	148,527
Net Pension Asset		-
Total Non Current Assets		148,527

TOTAL ASSETS		324,193
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DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension related	106,851
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LIABILITIES

Payroll and related payables	7,856
Net pension liability	81,925
	89,781

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred revenue	18,750
Pension related	10,073
	28,823

NET POSITION

Net investment in capital assets	148,527
Unrestricted - Unassigned	163,913
	312,440

Total Net Position	312,440
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$ 431,044
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See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Program Revenues			Net Revenues(Expenses)	
Functions / Programs	Expenses	Charges Services	Operating Grants & Contributions	Capital Grants & Contributions	Governmental Activities
General government	\$ 16,899				\$ (16,899)
Public defense	474,413		434,137		(40,276)
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 491,312	-	434,137	-	(57,175)
General Revenues					
					64,829
					-
					87
					64,916
Change in Net Position					7,741
Net Position, beginning					304,699
Net Position, ending					\$ 312,440

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TWENITIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 BALANCE SHEET
 JUNE 30, 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 135,666
Receivables, net	-
Investments	40,000
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>175,666</u>
<u>LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS, AND FUND BALANCE</u>	
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Payroll and related payables	7,856
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>7,856</u>
<u>Deferred Inflows of Revenue</u>	
Deferred Revenues	18,750
<u>Fund Balance</u>	
Unrestricted	149,060
<u>Total Liabilities and Fund Equity</u>	<u>\$ 175,666</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
 TO THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
 JUNE 30, 2023

Total Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$	149,060
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Deferred Outflows - Pension Related		106,851
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Net Pension Asset		-
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Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet		148,527
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Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported on the Balance Sheet:

Net Pension Liability		(81,925)
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Deferred Inflows - Pension Related		(10,073)
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Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$	312,440
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See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 64,829
Grants and other contributions	434,137
Interest earned	87
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>499,053</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
General government	16,899
Public defense	499,404
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>516,303</u>
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues - Change in Fund Balance	(17,250)
Fund Balance, beginning	<u>166,310</u>
Fund Balance, ending	<u>\$ 149,060</u>

See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

TWENITIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 RECONCILIATION OF STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
 AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS
 TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds	\$	(17,250)
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation differed from capital outlay charged in the current period.		23,771
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Change in Net Pension assets & liabilities		1,220
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Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities	\$	7,741
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See Accompanying Notes and Accountants' Review Report

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender Board was established for the Twentieth Judicial District by Louisiana Revised Statute 15:144 – 15:148. On August 15, 2007, the Board was abolished and authority transferred to the District Public Defender by Act No. 307 known as the Public Defender Act.

The main purpose of the Public Defender is to provide legal counsel for public defendants that could not otherwise afford representation.

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation: The accounting and reporting practice of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender conforms to governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards (GASB) which is the standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Financial Reporting Entity: Section 2100 of the GASB Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards (GASB Codification) established criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. For financial reporting purposes, in conformance with GASB Codification Section 2100, the Public Defender includes all funds which are controlled by or dependent on the Public Defender which was determined on the basis of oversight responsibility, including accountability for fiscal and budget matter, designation of management or governing authority and authority to issue debt. While the Public Defender is a part of the district court system, state statute gives each district Public Defender control over its own operations. It operates autonomously from the State of Louisiana and independently from the district court system and, therefore, issues its own financial statements.

Government-Wide Accounting: In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Boards Statement No. 34, the Public Defender has presented a statement of net position and statement of activities for the Public Defender as a whole. These statements include the primary government and its component units, if applicable, with the exception of fiduciary funds. Those funds are reported separately. Government-wide accounting is designed to provide a more comprehensive view of the government's operations and financial position as a single economic entity.

Government-wide statements distinguish between governmental-type and business-type activities. Governmental activities are those financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues and other non-exchange revenues and are usually reported in governmental and internal service funds. Business activities are financed in whole or in part through fees charged for goods or services to the general public and are usually reported in proprietary funds.

Policies specific to the government-wide statements are as follows:

Eliminating Internal Activity

Interfund receivables and payables are eliminated in the statement of net position except for the net residual amounts due between governmental and business-type activities. These are presented as internal balances. The allocation of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function is eliminated in the statement of activities. Allocated expenses are reported by the function to which they were allocated.

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

Capitalizing Assets

Tangible and/or intangible assets used in operations with an initial useful life that extends beyond one year are capitalized. Fixed assets, such as furniture and fixtures, are also capitalized. Capital assets are recorded at their historical cost and are depreciated using the straight-line method of depreciation over their estimated useful lives. They are reported net of accumulated depreciation on the statement of net assets.

Program Revenues

The statement of activities presents three categories of program revenues - (1) charges for services; (2) operating grants and contributions; and (3) capital grants and contributions. Charges for services are those revenues arising from charges to customers who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods and services provided by the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender. Grants and contributions, whether operating or capital in nature, are revenues arising from receipts that are restricted for a specific use.

Indirect Expenses

Expenses are reported according to function except for those that meet the definition of special or extraordinary items. Direct expenses are specifically associated with a service or program. Indirect expenses include general government or administration that cannot be specifically traced to a service or program. Governments are not required to allocate indirect expenses to other functions, and the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender has chosen not to do so.

Operating / Non-operating Revenues

Proprietary funds separately report operating and non-operating revenues. Revenues from transactions of the Public Defender's operation are considered operating revenues. All other revenues, which are reported as cash flows from capital or non-capital financing and investing, are reported as non-operating revenues.

Restricted Net Position

Restricted net positions are those for which a constraint has been imposed either externally or by law. The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender recognizes the use of restricted resources for expenditures that comply with the specific restrictions. Restricted resources are exhausted before unrestricted net position is used.

Fund Accounting: The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities. A fund is a separate entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender has only one category: governmental. Each category, in turn, is divided into separate fund types. The fund classifications and a description of each existing fund type follow:

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds account for all or most of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's general activities, including the collection and disbursement of specific or legally restricted monies, the acquisition or construction of general fixed assets, and the servicing of general long-term obligations. Governmental funds of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender include:

1. General Fund - is the general operating fund of the Public Defender and accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus: In April of 1984, the Financial Accounting Foundation established the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) to promulgate generally accepted

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

accounting principles and reporting standards with respect to activities and transactions of state and local governmental entities. The GASB has issued a Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards (GASB Codification). This codification, and subsequent GASB pronouncements, is recognized as generally accepted accounting principles for state and local governments. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with such principles.

The type of financial statement presentation determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund.

The government-wide statements are reported using an economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of governmental-type activities are included in the statement of net position. Revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized at the time the liabilities are incurred in the statement of activities. In these statements, capital assets are reported and depreciated in each fund, and long-term debt is reported.

The fund statements are reported using a current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements present increases and decreases in net current assets. Expenditures for capital assets are reported as current expenses, and such assets are not depreciated. Principle and interest paid on long-term debt is reported as current expenses.

Budgets: The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender is not required under Louisiana Revised Statutes to have public meetings on the adoption of its budget. The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender prepares an annual budget for review by the Louisiana Public Defender Board. It is reviewed periodically during the year.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest bearing demand deposits and money market savings. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of ninety (90) days or less. Under state law, the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts 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.

Investments: Investments are limited by La. Revised Statute 33:2955. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments. Otherwise, the investments are classified as cash and cash equivalents. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 31, investments are recorded at fair market value, based on quoted market prices, with the corresponding increase or decrease reported in investment earnings.

Capital Assets: The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method over the useful lives of the assets of 5 years for equipment and 7-10 years for office furniture. The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's capitalization policy includes adding all assets with a value of \$1,000 or more. However, assets that are less in value may be capitalized if their use will benefit more than one period such as recording equipment or computers.

Long-Term Obligations: In the government-wide financial statements, debt principal payments of governmental-type activities are reported as decreases in the balance of the liability on the statement

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

of net position. In the fund financial statements of governmental activities, however, debt principal payments of governmental funds are recognized as expenditures when paid.

The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender does not have any long-term debt.

Restricted Net Position:

Net position that is reserved by external sources such as banks or by law are reported separately as restricted net position. When assets are required to be retained in perpetuity, the resulting non-expendable net position are recorded separately from expendable net position. These are components of restricted net position.

Unrestricted Net Position:

This category represents net position not appropriable for expenditures or legally segregated for a specific future use.

In the balance sheet of governmental funds, fund balances are segregated as follows:

Non-spendable - that portion of net resources that cannot be spent because of its form or because it must be maintained intact

Restricted - net resources for which an external and enforceable limitation was placed on its use either by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws/regulations of other governments

Committed - net resources with a self-imposed limitation set in place by the governing body through a formal action of that body as to its intended use prior to year-end

Assigned - net resources for which an intended specific use is placed by the governing body, a committee thereof or by an official designated to handle that particular use not requiring a formal action of the governing body

Unassigned - that portion of net resources not otherwise classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed or assigned, i.e. surplus.

NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, they 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 mutually acceptable to both parties.

Even though pledged securities are considered uncollateralized under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, La. 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 that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

With the adoption of GASB Statement No. 40, only deposits that are considered exposed to custodial credit risk are required to be disclosed. The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender has no deposits (bank balances) that are considered uninsured and uncollateralized at June 30, 2023.

Cash at June 30, 2023, amounted to \$135,666 held in interest-bearing demand deposits.

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 – INVESTMENTS

Investments can be exposed to custodial credit risk if the securities underlying the investment are uninsured and unregistered, not registered in the name of the entity or are held either by the counter-party's trust department or agent but not in the entity's name. Investments of the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender are certificates of deposit held by the counter-party in the Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender's name. They are secured from risk by \$250,000 of federal deposit insurance and pledged collateral.

Investments of the Public Defender include long-term certificates of deposit in the amount of \$40,000 held at The Highlands Bank. The cost equals the fair market value at June 30, 2023.

NOTE 4 – RECEIVABLES

The following is a summary of governmental funds receivables at June 30, 2023:

There were no receivables at year-end.

NOTE 5 -CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Capital Assets, being depreciated				
Furniture and equipment	\$ 17,077			\$ 17,077
Building	126,408			126,408
Leasehold Improvements	0	30,049		30,049
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(18,730)	(6,278)		(25,008)
Capital Assets, total	<u>\$ 124,755</u>	<u>\$ 23,771</u>		<u>\$ 148,527</u>

NOTE 6 -ACCOUNTS AND OTHER PAYABLES

The following is a summary of current payables at June 30, 2023:

Payroll withholding taxes	\$ 4,167
Retirement payable	<u>3,689</u>
	<u>\$ 7,856</u>

NOTE 7 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Public Defender does not provide any post-employment benefits to its employees.

NOTE 8 – PENSION PLAN

All full time employees of the Public Defender, regularly scheduled over 28 hours, are eligible to be members of the Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, a multiple-employer, public employee retirement system, controlled and administered by a separate board of trustees. The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions. Eligible employees of the Public Defender are members of Plan A. Contributions of

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

participating agencies are pooled within the system to fund accrued benefits, with contribution rates approved by the Louisiana Legislature.

All permanent employees working at least 28 hours per week who are paid wholly or in part from parish funds are eligible to participate in the System. Employees hired prior to 1/1/07 are eligible to retire with 7 years of creditable service at age 65, 10 years of creditable service at age 60, 25 years of creditable service at age 55, or 30 or more years of creditable service at any age. Employees hired 1/1/07 and later are eligible to retire with 7 years of service at age 67, 10 years of service at age 62 or with 30 years of service at age 55.

Generally, the monthly amount of the retirement allowance for any member of Plan A shall consist of an amount equal to 3% of the members' final average compensation multiplied by his years of creditable service. However, under certain conditions, as outlined in the statutes, the benefits are limited to specified amounts.

Survivor Benefits: Plan A members survivor benefits are outlined in the Statutes.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan: Act 338 of 1990 established the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for the Retirement System. DROP is an option for that member who is eligible for normal retirement. In lieu of terminating employment and accepting a service retirement, any member of Plan A who is eligible to retire may elect to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) in which they are enrolled for 3 years and defer the receipt of benefits. During participation in the plan, employer contributions are payable but employee contributions cease. The monthly retirement benefits that would be payable, had the person elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement allowance, are paid into the DROP fund.

Upon termination of employment prior to or at the end of the specified period of participation, a participant in the DROP may receive, at his option, a lump sum from the account equal to the payments into the account, a true annuity based upon his account balance in that fund, or roll over the fund to an Individual Retirement Account. Interest is accrued on the DROP benefits for the period between the end of DROP participation and the member's retirement date.

For individuals who become eligible to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan on or after January 1, 2004, all amounts which remain credited to the individual's subaccount after termination in the Plan will be placed in liquid asset money market investments at the discretion of the board of trustees. These subaccounts may be credited with interest based on money market rates of return or, at the option of the System, the funds may be credited to self-directed subaccounts. The participant in the self-directed portion of this Plan must agree that the benefits payable to the participant are not the obligations of the state or the System, and that any returns and other rights of the Plan are the sole liability and responsibility of the participant and the designated provider to which contributions have been made.

Disability Benefits: For Plan A, a member shall be eligible to retire and receive a disability benefit if he/she was hired prior to January 1, 2007, and has at least 5 years of creditable service or if hired after January 1, 2007, has 7 years of creditable service, and is not eligible for normal retirement, and has been officially certified as disabled by the State Medical Disability Board. Upon retirement caused by disability, a member of Plan A shall be paid a disability benefit equal to the lesser of an amount equal to 3% of the member's final average compensation multiplied by his years of service, not to be less than 15, or 3% multiplied by years of service assuming continued service to age 60.

Cost of Living Increases: The Board is authorized to provide a cost of living allowance for those retirees who retired prior to July 1973. The adjustment cannot exceed 2% of the retiree's original benefit for each full calendar year since retirement and may only be granted if sufficient funds are

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

available from investment income in excess of normal requirements. In addition, the Board may provide an additional cost of living increase to all retirees and beneficiaries who are over age 65 equal to 2% of the member's benefit paid on October 1, 1977, (or the member's retirement date, if later). Also, the Board may provide a cost of living increase up to 2.5% for retirees 62 and older. (RS 11:1937). Lastly, Act 270 of 2009 provided for further reduced actuarial payments to provide an annual 2.5% cost of living adjustment commencing at age 55.

Employer Contributions: According to state statute, contributions for all employers are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the actuarially determined contribution rate was 7.10% for member's compensation for Plan A. However, the actual rate for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 was 11.5% for Plan A. For 2022, members were required to contribute 9.5% of their annual covered salary and the Public Defender was required to contribute 11.50% of annual covered payroll. The Public Defender contributed \$15,833 during 2022 as its share of contributions. The Public Defender does not guarantee the benefits granted by the retirement system. In 2022, the Public Defender had 2 full time qualified staff members.

Non-Employer Contributions: According to the state statute, the System also receives ¼ of 1% of ad valorem taxes collected within the respective parishes, except for Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes. The System also receives revenue sharing funds each year as appropriated by the Legislature. Tax monies and revenue sharing monies are apportioned between Plan A and Plan B in proportion to the member's compensation. These additional sources of income are used as additional employer contributions and are considered support from non-employer contributing entities.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources: At June 30, 2023, the Public Defender reported assets in its financial statements of \$81,925 for its proportionate share of the net pension liabilities of PERS. The net pension liabilities are measured as of December 31, 2022 and the total pension asset used to calculate the net pension obligation was determined by separate actuarial valuations performed as of that date. The Public Defender's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Public Defender's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2022, the Public Defender's proportional share of PERS was 0.021286%.

At June 30, 2023, the Public Defender reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Deferred Flows of Resources:	<u>Outflows</u>	<u>Inflows</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 3,029	\$ 9,026
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on Pension Plan Investments	86,487	0
Changes in Assumption	2,615	0
Changes in Proportion	1,783	1,047
Employer contributions subsequent to measurement date	12,937	0
	<u>\$ 106,851</u>	<u>\$ 10,073</u>

The Public Defender reported \$12,937 as deferred outflows of resources related to pension contributions made subsequent to the plan's measurement period of December 31, 2022, which will be recognized as a reduction in net pension asset in the Public Defender's fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 JUNE 30, 2023

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions: A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability for Plan A as of December 31, 2022 are as follows:

Valuation Date	December 31, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	6.40% (Net of investment expense)
Expected Remaining Service lives	4 years
Projected Salary Increases	4.75%
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently paid by the system and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The present values do not include provisions for potential future increase not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees.
Mortality	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Health Retirees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2018 scale for annuitant and beneficiary mortality. For employees, the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Employees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2018 scale. Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for General Disabled Retirees multiplied by 130% for males and 125% for females using MP2018 scale for disabled annuitants.

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.40% for Plan A. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers and non-employer contributing entities will be made at the actuarially determined contribution rates, which are calculated in accordance with relevant statutes and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a triangulation method which integrated the CAPM pricing model (top-down), a treasury yield curve approach (bottom-up) and an equity building-block model (bottom-up). Risk return and correlations are projected on a forward looking basis in equilibrium, in which best-estimates of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These rates are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation of 2.10% and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting expected long-term rate of return is 7.00% for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the System's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Portfolio Real Rate of Return</u>
Fixed Income	33%	1.17%
Equity	51%	3.58%
Alternatives	14%	0.73%
Real Assets	2%	0.12%
Totals	100%	5.60%
Inflation		2.10%
Expected Arithmetic Nominal Return		7.70%

The mortality rate assumption used was set based upon an experience study performed on plan data for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017. The data was then assigned credibility weighting and combined with a standard table to produce current levels of mortality. This mortality was then projected forward to a period equivalent to the estimated duration of the System's liabilities. Annuity values calculated based on this mortality were compared to those produced by using a set back of standard tables. The result of the procedure indicated that the tables used would produce liability values approximating the appropriate generational mortality tables.

The following presents the net pension liability of the participating employers calculated using the discount rate of 6.40%, as well as what the employers' net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower 5.40% or one percentage point higher 7.40% than the current rate.

	Plan A Changes in Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease (5.40%)	Current Discount Rate (6.40%)	1% Increase (7.40%)
Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ (202,604)	\$ 81,925	\$ 19,248

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 9 – GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the major sources of governmental fund revenues and expenditures were as follows:

Revenues:

Local Government

Statutory fines, forfeitures, fee, Court costs and other	\$64,829
Grants and other contributions	434,137
	<u>498,966</u>

Investment Earnings	<u>87</u>
Total Revenues	<u>499,053</u>

Expenditures:

Personnel Services and Benefits

Salaries	208,396
Payroll taxes and retirement	23,996
Total	<u>232,392</u>

Professional Development

Dues, licenses, and registrations	3,027
Travel	1,091
Total	<u>4,118</u>

Operating Costs

Library and Research	2,499
Contract Services – attorney/legal	171,512
Insurance	5,261
Utilities and Telephone	6,501
Other	63,971
Total	<u>249,744</u>

Capital Outlay	<u>30,049</u>
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Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$516,303</u></u>
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TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 -RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

NOTE 11 - LITIGATION

The Twentieth Judicial District Public Defender is not involved in any litigation and is not aware of any claims outstanding that require disclosure in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE 12 – DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In some instances, the GASB requires a governmental agency to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of revenues. The agency had no deferred grant revenue in this fiscal period, under GASB's guidelines.

NOTE 13 -SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 28, 2023, the date on which the financial statements are available to be issued. There were no subsequent events that required disclosure.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

PART 2 OF 2

THE DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
 BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
 GENERAL FUND

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
State Government Contributions	225,400	291,904	293,868	1,964
Appropriations-Local Government	45,000	45,000	36,812	(8,188)
State Government Grants	0		11,000	11,000
Criminal Bond Fees	2,000	3,447	4,309	862
District Criminal Court	92,000	100,000	129,269	29,269
Charges for Service	8,000	26,220	23,708	(2,512)
Investment Earnings	100	80	87	7
Total Revenues	372,500	466,651	499,053	32,402
EXPENDITURES				
General Government:				
Salaries and payroll taxes	231,000	240,193	232,392	7,801
Travel / Mileage	5,575	4,359	4,006	353
Operating Services	22,940	28,669	35,057	(6,388)
Professional Services	185,000	212,389	212,388	1
Acquisitions	11,000	30,746	30,049	697
Other Operating Expenses	500	2,386	2,411	(25)
	456,015	518,742	516,303	2,439
Total Expenditures	456,015	518,742	516,303	2,439
Change in Fund Balances	(83,515)	(52,091)	(17,250)	
Fund Balances, beginning	22,265	189,594	303,127	
Fund Balances, ending	(61,250)	137,503	285,877	

See Accompanying Independent Accountant's Review Report

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS
TO AGENCY HEAD
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Public Defender: Rhonda Covington	
Salary	\$ 100,380
Membership dues	930
Auto mileage	1,755
Continuing education	707
Health insurance, dental premiums	7,550
Retirement matching (11.5 % of salary)	11,544
Total	<u>\$ 122,866</u>

See Accompanying Independent Accountant's Review Report

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
RECEIVING ENTITY SCHEDULE
As required by Act 87 of 2020 Regular Legislative Session

Cash Basis Presentation	First Six Month Period Ended <u>12/31/2022</u>	Second Six Month Period Ended <u>6/30/2023</u>
Receipts from:		
Louisiana State Appropriations	\$ 196,199	\$ 51,794
East Feliciana Parish Sheriff Bond Fees	\$ 9,048	\$ 10,857
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff Bond Fees	\$ 7,653	\$ 9,253
East Feliciana Parish Sheriff Court Costs	\$ 21,026	\$ 34,828
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff Court Costs	\$ 21,825	\$ 21,590
East Feliciana Parish Sheriff Legal Fees	\$ 7,904	\$ 6,069
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff Legal Fees	<u>\$ 5,948</u>	<u>\$ 3,281</u>
Total Receipts	<u><u>\$ 269,603</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 137,672</u></u>

See Accompanying Independent Accountant's Review Report

AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

MC DUFFIE K. HERROD, LTD.

(A Professional Accounting Corporation)

McDUFFIE K. HERROD
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Member:
American Institute of CPAs
Society of Louisiana CPAs

POST OFFICE BOX 8436
12410 WOODVILLE ST.
CLINTON, LA 70722

Telephone (225) 683-3888
Facsimile (225) 683-6733

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Rhonda Covington
The District Public Defender
Twentieth Judicial District of Louisiana
P.O. Box 68
Clinton, Louisiana 70722

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Public Defender and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, on the Public Defender's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. The Public Defender's management is responsible for its financial records and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified parties. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

With respect to your representations included within the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire, as of June 30, 2023 and for the year then ended, we have applied the following agreed-upon procedures:

Public Bid Law

1. Obtain documentation for all expenditures made during the year for materials and supplies exceeding \$60,000, and public works exceeding \$250,000. Compare the documentation for these expenditures to Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 39:1551-39:1775 (the state procurement code) or R.S. 38:2211-2296 (the public bid law), or the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office, whichever is applicable; and report whether the expenditures were made in accordance with these laws.

There were no expenditures for the year ended June 30, 2023 that were subject to the public bid law.

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

2. Obtain a list of the immediate family members of each board member as defined by R.S. 42:1101-1124 (the ethics law).

Management provided us with the requested information.

3. Obtain a list of all employees paid during the fiscal year.

Management provided us with the requested information.

4. Report whether any employees' names appear on both lists obtained in Procedures 2 and 3.

Management provided us with the requested information and none were noted.

5. Obtain a list of all disbursements made during the year; and a list of outside business interests of board members, employees, and board members' and employees' immediate families. Report whether any vendors appear on both lists.

Management provided us with the requested information and none appeared on both lists.

Budgeting

6. Obtain a copy of the legally adopted budget and all amendments.

Management provided us with the requested information.

7. Trace documentation for the adoption of the budget and approval of any amendments to the minute book, and report whether there are any exceptions.

Not applicable to this agency.

8. Compare the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Report whether actual revenues failed to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and whether actual expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by 5% or more. (For agencies that must comply with the Licensing Agency Budget Act only, compare the expenditures of the final budget to actual expenditures, and report whether actual expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by 10% or more per category or 5% or more in total).

These procedures were performed and no exceptions were noted or reported.

Accounting and Reporting

9. Obtain the list of all disbursements made during the fiscal year. Randomly select six disbursements, and obtain documentation from management for these disbursements. Compare the selected disbursements to the supporting documentation, and: (a) report whether the six disbursements agree to the amount and the payee in the supporting documentation, (b) report whether the six disbursements are coded to the correct fund and general ledger account, and (c) Report whether the six disbursements were approved in accordance with management's policies and procedures.

Each of the six selected disbursements agreed with the amount and payee in the supporting documentation.

Meetings

10. Obtain evidence from management to support that agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by R.S. 42:11 through 42:28 (the open meetings law); and report whether there are any exceptions.

Not applicable to this agency.

Debt

11. Obtain bank deposit slips for the fiscal year, and scan the deposit slips in order to identify and report whether there are any deposits that appear to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness. If any such proceeds are identified, obtain from management evidence of approval by the State Bond Commission, and report any exceptions.

We scanned the bank deposit slips for the fiscal period and noted no deposits which appeared to be proceeds of bank loans, bond proceeds or like indebtedness.

Advances and Bonuses

12. Obtain the list of payroll disbursements and meeting minutes of the governing board, if applicable. Scan these documents to identify and report whether there are any payments or approval of payments to employees that may constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

We scanned payroll disbursements and found no payments or approval for payments in any documents or approval for payments to employees that would constitute bonuses, advances or gifts.

State Audit Law

13. Report whether the agency provided for a timely report in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

The agency provided the required report timely in accordance with the revised statute.

14. Inquire of management and report whether the agency entered into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

We made the inquiries and the agency entered into no contracts or like agreements.

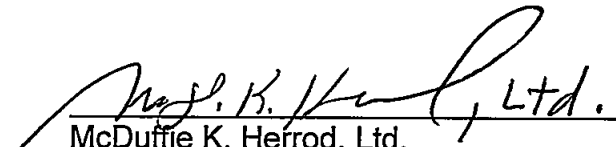
Prior-Year Comments

15. Obtain and report management's representation as to whether any prior-year suggestions, recommendations, and/or comments have been resolved.

The prior year report did not include any suggestions, recommendations, or comments.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United States Comptroller General. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Public Defender's compliance with the foregoing matters. 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.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the Public Defender's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide, 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 Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.


McDuffie K. Herrod, Ltd.
Clinton, LA

December 28, 2023

THE DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

A. PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There were no prior year findings to report

B. CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

There are no current year findings to report.

C. MANAGEMENT LETTER ITEMS

There are no management letter items to report as of June 30, 2023.

LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE
(For Attestation Engagements of Governmental Agencies)

January 3, 2024 (Date Transmitted)

McDuffie K. Herrod, Ltd (CPA Firm Name)

12410 Woodville Street (CPA Firm Address)

Clinton, Louisiana 70722 (City, State Zip)

In connection with your engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the control and compliance matters identified below, as of June 30, 2023 (date) and for the year then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, we make the following representations to you.

Public Bid Law

It is true that we have complied with the state procurement code (R.S. 39:1551 – 39:1755); the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211-2296), and, where applicable, the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office.

Yes No N/A

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

It is true that no employees or officials have accepted anything of value, whether in the form of a service, loan, or promise, from anyone that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1101-1124.

Yes No N/A

It is true that no member of the immediate family of any member of the governing authority, or the chief executive of the governmental entity, has been employed by the governmental entity after April 1, 1980, under circumstances that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1119.

Yes No N/A

Budgeting

We have complied with the state budgeting requirements of the Local Government Budget Act (R.S. 39:1301-15), R.S. 39:33, or the budget requirements of R.S. 39:1331-1342, as applicable.

Yes No N/A

Accounting and Reporting

All non-exempt governmental records are available as a public record and have been retained for at least three years, as required by R.S. 44:1, 44:7, 44:31, and 44:36.

Yes No N/A

We have filed our annual financial statements in accordance with R.S. 24:514, and 33:463 where applicable.

Yes No N/A

We have had our financial statements reviewed in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

Yes No N/A

We did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Yes No N/A

We have complied with R.S. 24:513 A. (3) regarding disclosure of compensation, reimbursements, benefits and other payments to the agency head, political subdivision head, or chief executive officer.

Yes No N/A

We have complied with R.S. 24:515.2 regarding reporting of pre- and post- adjudication court costs, fines and fees assessed or imposed; the amounts collected; the amounts outstanding; the amounts retained; the amounts disbursed, and the amounts received from disbursements.

Yes No [] N/A []

Meetings

We have complied with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, provided in R.S. 42:11 through 42:28.

Yes [] No [] N/A

Debt

It is true we have not incurred any indebtedness, other than credit for 90 days or less to make purchases in the ordinary course of administration, nor have we entered into any lease-purchase agreements, without the approval of the State Bond Commission, as provided by Article VII, Section 8 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VI, Section 33 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and R.S. 39:1410.60-1410.65.

Yes No [] N/A []

Advances and Bonuses

It is true we have not advanced wages or salaries to employees or paid bonuses in violation of Article VII, Section 14 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, R.S. 14:138, and AG opinion 79-729.

Yes No [] N/A []

Prior-Year Comments

We have resolved all prior-year recommendations and/or comments.

Yes [] No [] N/A

General

We acknowledge that we are responsible for the Agency's compliance with the foregoing laws and regulations and the internal controls over compliance with such laws and regulations.

Yes No [] N/A []

We acknowledge that we are responsible for determining that that the procedures performed are appropriate for the purposes of this engagement.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have evaluated our compliance with these laws and regulations prior to making these representations.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have provided you with all relevant information and access under the terms of our agreement.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have disclosed to you all known noncompliance of the foregoing laws and regulations, as well as any contradictions to the foregoing representations.

Yes [] No [] N/A

We are not aware of any material misstatements in the information we have provided to you.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have disclosed to you any communications from regulatory agencies, internal auditors, other independent practitioners or consultants, and others concerning noncompliance with the foregoing laws and regulations, including communications received during the period under examination; and will

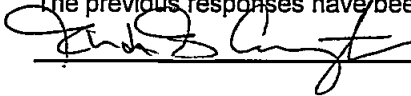
disclose to you any such communication received between the end of the period under examination and the date of your report.

Yes [] No [] N/A []

We will disclose to you, the Legislative Auditor, and the applicable state grantor agency/agencies all known noncompliance and other events subsequent to the date of this representation and the date of your report that could have a material effect on our compliance with laws and regulations and the internal controls with such laws and regulations, or would require adjustment or modification to the results of the agreed-upon procedures.

Yes [] No [] N/A []

The previous responses have been made to the best of our belief and knowledge.



District Defender 1-3-24 Date

Treasurer _____ Date

President _____ Date