



**County Controller**

Richard J. Szulborski

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Anthony Sabino, CIA

**Solicitor**

Robert A. Nitchkey, Jr., Esq.

**County Executive**

Lamont G. McClure, Jr.

**County Council**

Kerry L. Myers, President  
Ronald R. Heckman, Vice-President  
John A. Brown  
John Cusick  
Thomas A. Giovanni  
John P. Goffredo  
Lori Vargo Heffner  
Kevin Lott  
Tara M. Zrinski

Financial Audit Report

**MAGISTERIAL  
DISTRICT JUDGE  
JACQUELINE M.  
TASCHNER, ESQ.  
COURT #03-2-09**

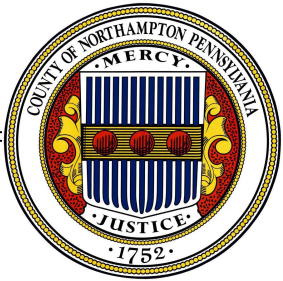
Years Ended December 31, 2020  
and December 31, 2021

**Office of the Controller  
County of Northampton  
Pennsylvania**

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
Magisterial District Court 03-2-09  
Magisterial District Judge Jacqueline M. Taschner, Esq.  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021

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**RICHARD J. SZULBORSKI**

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**Independent Auditor's Report**

Northampton County Commissioners  
Lamont G. McClure, Jr., County Executive  
Honorable Michael J. Koury, Jr., President Judge  
County of Northampton, Pennsylvania

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Cash Basis of Magisterial District Court (MDC) 03-2-09 of the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Cash Basis as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021 in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Magisterial District Courts and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that

includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of these financial statements. In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Magisterial District Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Magisterial District Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America 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 involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statement was prepared for the purpose of complying with the 16 P.S. 1720 (a) (3) reporting requirements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 19, 2023, on our consideration of the MDC's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the MDC's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Szulborski  
County of Northampton Controller  
Easton, Pennsylvania



Altynay Kanatbekoff CFE, MPA  
Auditor II

January 19, 2023

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
Magisterial District Court 03-2-09  
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Cash Basis  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/2020</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2020</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash	\$ 19,143	\$ 341,019	\$ 347,042	\$ 13,120
Total Assets	<u>\$ 19,143</u>	<u>\$ 341,019</u>	<u>\$ 347,042</u>	<u>\$ 13,120</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
State costs and fines	\$ -	\$ 210,819	\$ 210,819	\$ -
County costs and fines	5,819	54,458	56,597	3,680
Local fines:				
Bethlehem City	4	360	328	36
Easton Area School District	-	123	123	-
Forks Township	1,637	15,461	16,339	759
Palmer Township	3,523	19,803	22,639	687
Tatamy Borough	1,098	15,307	15,616	789
Escrow	7,676	24,698	24,550	7,824
Miscellaneous	(614)	(10)	31	(655)
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 19,143</u>	<u>\$ 341,019</u>	<u>\$ 347,042</u>	<u>\$ 13,120</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
Magisterial District Court 03-2-09  
Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Cash Basis  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/2021</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2021</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash	\$ 13,120	\$ 381,213	\$ 377,566	\$ 16,767
Total Assets	<u>\$ 13,120</u>	<u>\$ 381,213</u>	<u>\$ 377,566</u>	<u>\$ 16,767</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
State costs and fines	\$ -	\$ 247,629	\$ 247,629	\$ -
County costs and fines	3,680	53,904	54,005	3,579
Local fines:				
Bethlehem City	36	200	218	18
Forks Township	759	15,926	16,288	397
PA Cyber Charter	-	8	-	8
Palmer Township	687	23,408	22,757	1,338
Tatamy Borough	789	16,264	16,059	994
Escrow	7,824	23,874	21,264	10,434
Miscellaneous	(655)	-	(654)	(1)
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 13,120</u>	<u>\$ 381,213</u>	<u>\$ 377,566</u>	<u>\$ 16,767</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
Magisterial District Court 03-2-09  
Notes to Financial Statement  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021

NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting. Under this basis, only cash transactions are recognized. Since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not require the reporting of accounts receivable balances or accounts payable balances, they are not presented.

Basis of Presentation – Fund Accounting

The accounts of the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania, are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the County. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

A custodial fund is used to account for assets held by the MDC as an agent for individuals, private organizations or other governmental units. Since these are custodial in nature, they do not involve measurement of operations.

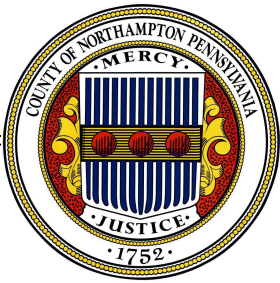
Financial Reporting Entity

The Magisterial District Courts Custodial Fund represents one of many divisions accounted for by the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania, in its Custodial Funds.

Northampton County Controller's Office – Statute Requiring Audit of Magisterial District Justice Offices

Under 16 P.S. 1720 1 (a) (3), "it shall be the duty of the controller or county auditors to audit, settle and adjust the accounts of each magistrate or district justice within the county and report the results of the audits to the county commissioners, the Auditor General and to the governing body of each political subdivision which is entitled or has a right to receive any money or funds collected by a magistrate or district justice." Since the assets and liabilities of the Magisterial District Judge are accounted for in the combined County's Magisterial District Custodial fund and not separately, a Balance Sheet is not presented.





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**ROBERT A. NITCHKEY, JR., ESQ.**  
Solicitor

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with  
*Government Auditing Standards***

**Independent Auditor's Report**

Northampton County Commissioners  
Lamont G. McClure, Jr., County Executive  
Honorable Michael J. Koury, Jr., President Judge  
County of Northampton, Pennsylvania

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities – Cash Basis of the Magisterial District Court (MDC) 03-2-09 of the County of Northampton, Pennsylvania, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 19, 2023.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the MDC's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of MDC's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the MDC's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## Compliance and Other Matters

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

## Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Szulborski  
County of Northampton Controller  
Easton, Pennsylvania



Altynay Kanatbekoff CFE, MPA  
Auditor II

January 19, 2023