



HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of the County Auditor

EXIT AUDIT – COUNCIL MEMBER GUTHRIE

Report Number:
2025-A-12

Report Date:
12/16/2024

Council Members and County Executive Cassilly:

In accordance with Section 214 of the Harford County Charter, we have performed an audit of the accounts under the direction of Dion Guthrie, former District A Representative for the period of 12/1/2022 through 11/30/2024. This audit was conducted as required “upon the death, resignation or removal of any County officer”.

The audit found Mr. Guthrie has no indebtedness to the County.

We would like to thank the members of management for their cooperation during the audit. They have been provided an opportunity to respond to this report; the response(s) provided follows the Conclusions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrystal Brooks, CPA".

Chrystal Brooks
County Auditor

CONCLUSIONS

Our opinion, based on the evidence obtained, is Mr. Guthrie has no indebtedness to the County. This assessment is based on the strengths and weaknesses identified for the objectives below.

Business Process Objective	Assessment ⁱ
Financial Accounts were properly managed	Effective
Access to County resources has been revoked.	Effective
Final payroll and leave payouts are correct	Effective

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Management thanks the Office of the County Auditor for the completion of this audit and the Effective Assessments.

BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with Harford County Charter section 214, upon death, resignation or removal of any county officer, the County Auditor shall cause an audit and investigation to be made of any accounts maintained by the officer and by his agency. The objective of this review was to satisfy the requirements of Charter Section 214, with regard to Council Member Dion Guthrie, District A Representative who left County service on 11/14/2024 by operation of Law, in accordance with the Maryland Constitution. The scope was limited to accounts and resources under the control of the District A office. The audit focused on activity during the period of 12/1/2022 through 11/30/2024.

The audit approach focused on testing the key controls that address management's objectives. We sought to confirm that the accounts under the official's control did not have unusual or inappropriate costs; physical, logical and financial access to County resources had been revoked and that the final paycheck and leave payout were correct. Our audit procedures are described in the table below.

Process / Control Objective	Scope of Review
Financial Oversight	
Accounts under the direction of the Official are properly managed through budget monitoring and supervisors' transaction approvals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review a sample of accounts under the direction of the Official to confirm:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Transactions were reasonable and approved through proper channels.○ Expense reimbursements were appropriately supported.
Access to County Resources	
Financial access to bank accounts is limited and removed when no longer needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm assigned purchase cards were returned and disabled.• Confirm access to financial and information systems has been revoked.
Supervisors confirm that physical access to facilities and inventory are removed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm keys, security and identification badges have been returned.• Confirm all assigned equipment has been returned.

Process / Control Objective	Scope of Review
Logical access is revoked timely after termination forms are completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm separation documentation was completed timely. • Confirm network accounts were disabled timely • Confirm that information system accounts were disabled timely.
Payroll and Leave Payouts	
The payroll system automatically calculates paychecks using approved pay rates and the timecard information interfaced from the timekeeping system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify pay rate reflects the approved budget amount and any changes to the rate were approved.
Leave payouts are calculated in accordance with the County Code.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm leave payout agrees to the Official's accrued leave amounts and agrees to the County Code guidelines.

Harford County management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls. Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance that objectives pertaining to the reliability of financial records, effectiveness and efficiency of operations including safeguarding of assets and compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations are achieved. Because of inherent limitations in internal control, errors or fraud may nevertheless occur and not be detected.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

Report Distribution:

Mr. Robert McCord, Director of Administration
Mr. Robert Sandlass, County Treasurer
Ms. Tiffany Stephens, Director of Human Resources

Audit Team:

Chrystal Brooks	Sarah Self, CIA, CGAP
CPA, CIA, CGAP, CISA, CGFM, CRMA	<i>Senior Auditor</i>
<i>County Auditor</i>	

ⁱ Definitions

Effective: The design and effectiveness of the internal control environment address key risks. The business unit complies with external laws and regulations, and internal policies, procedures and guidelines. Business processes are managed effectively resulting in achievement of expected outcomes.

Generally Effective: The design and/or effectiveness of the internal control environment generally address key risks; however, the number and severity of findings relative to the size and scope of the business unit being audited indicate that some minor areas of weakness in the control environment need to be addressed. Isolated instances of non-compliance with external laws and regulations, and internal policies, procedures and guidelines may exist. Business processes may not be managed effectively in all areas resulting in reduced achievement of expected outcomes.

Not Effective: The design and/or effectiveness of the internal control environment does not address key risks. Non-compliance or historical patterns of non-compliance with key regulatory requirements and internal policies, procedures and guidelines exist which expose the audited entity to financial, reputational, and operational risks. Business processes are not managed effectively and expected outcomes are not achieved.