



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis.....	3
Basic Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	7
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	17
Schedule of Findings.....	19

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Convention Facilities Authority
Hamilton County
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority, Hamilton County, Ohio (the CFA), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the CFA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the CFA's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the CFA's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Convention Facilities Authority, Hamilton County as of December 31, 2015, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require this presentation to include *Management's discussion and analysis*, listed in the table of contents, to supplement the basic financial statements. Although this information is not part of the basic financial statements, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board considers it essential for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, consisting of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries to the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not opine or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to opine or provide any other assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 19, 2016, on our consideration of the Government's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on 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 CFA's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 19, 2016

**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
(Unaudited)**

Overview

The Management's Discussion and Analysis section is designed to supplement the readers understanding of the financial statements by providing analytical, economical and factual information pertaining to the current and prior years' financial activities of the entity.

The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (CFA) is an up to 11-member body corporate and politic, organized and existing under Chapter 351 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended. The CFA issued bonds netting proceeds of \$111,176,644 dated March 2, 2004 for the purpose of expanding and renovating the Cinergy Convention Center (Duke Energy Center) in Cincinnati. This years MD&A will focus on the eleventh year of operations for the CFA.

Financial Highlights

The CFA's total net position increased by \$2.4 million. This is due to payment of the debt and an increase in Hotel taxes from the City of Cincinnati (City) and Hamilton County (County).

Operating Revenue for the CFA increased by \$182 thousand. Upon completion of the project, each year the remaining funds in the distribution account on February 28th after the payment of the prior year's debt service will be returned to the City and the County on a pro-rata share before March 31st. The sources of funds in this account are the Hotel Tax collections. The amounts returned from the 2014 receipts were \$3.9 million to the County and \$1.0 million to the City. The 2015 distribution will be approximately \$4.7 million to the County and \$668 thousand to the City.

Operating expenses increased by \$1 million in 2015 and revenues increased by \$182 thousand.

Financial Statements

The financial statements of the CFA report information about the CFA using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. These statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the CFA's overall financial status.

The following statements are included in this report:

The Statement of Net Position reports the CFA's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and available resources. Capital assets related to the Duke Energy Center are reported as part of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio (City) Financial Statements.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position reports all financial revenues and expenses made through the CFA.

The Statement of Cash Flows is designed to report the sources and uses of cash for the reporting entity.

Notes to the Financial Statements provide the reader with additional details about the amounts reported on the financial statements and the accounting policies used in preparation of the statements.

Financial Analysis

Statement of Net Position

Summary Statement of Net Position		
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)		
	2015	2014
Current and other assets	\$ 13,189	\$ 86,604
Current liabilities	8,240	80,901
Long-term liabilities outstanding	72,453	75,503
Total liabilities	<u>80,693</u>	<u>156,404</u>
Deferred Inflows	1,387	1,471
Net Position:		
Restricted for capital projects	3,816	5,000
Unrestricted	<u>(72,707)</u>	<u>(76,271)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (68,891)</u>	<u>\$(71,271)</u>

Long-term liabilities for 2015 were \$72.4 million consisting of \$64.7 million of outstanding debt and \$7.7 million of unamortized bond premiums, compared to \$75.5 million in 2014. Total debt payments in 2015 were \$2.6 million in principal and \$3.3 million in interest. The debt will be repaid from specifically identified Hotel Tax revenues collected by both Hamilton County, Ohio (County) and the City.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position		
(Amounts in Thousands)		
	2015	2014
Operating revenues	\$ 11,508	\$ 11,326
Non-Operating Revenues	456	100
Total Revenues	11,964	11,426
Operating expenses	6,402	5,386
Non-operating Expenses	3,182	4,447
Total expenses	9,584	9,833
Change in Net Position	2,380	1,593
Net Position, January 1	(71,271)	(72,864)
Net Position, December 31	\$ (68,891)	\$ (71,271)

Operating revenues include the following items pledged to support expenses for both debt service and project costs as part of the renovation and expansion of the Duke Energy Center:

- Hotel Taxes
 - o County 3 ½%
 - o City 2002 1 ½ %
 - o City 1%
- Corporate Contributions
- Annual Contributions
 - o City \$1.0 million began in 2004 and ended in 2014
 - o County \$250,000 began in 2005 and ended in 2014
- Naming Rights
- State Grants

Budgetary Highlights

Per the Cooperative Agreement among the CFA, County and City during the construction period or so long as any Junior Subordinated Bonds have been issued and remain unpaid the costs associated with the operation of the CFA (i.e. annual audit, insurance, etc.) were the responsibility of the City. Upon completion of the project (June 2006) the cost of operations for the CFA is paid from a portion of the City's 1% Hotel Tax and shall not exceed 10% of the 1% Hotel Tax. In 2006 the Junior Subordinate Bond commitment was released.

Debt Administration

The CFA financed the renovation and expansion of the Duke Energy Center primarily through the issuance of revenue bonds. During December of 2014 the first and second lien bonds were refunded with first lien bonds. Also, new revenue bonds of \$4.8 were issued to provide funding for improvements to the facility.

The CFA's revenue bond ratings are:

Moody's Investors Services	A2
Standard & Poor's Rating Services	A+

Economic Factors

The Duke Energy Center contributes to the economic growth and stability of Cincinnati by providing a facility to host international, national and regional convention and trade shows, as well as public expositions and meetings. The old facility had 162,000 square feet of exhibit space and 82,000 square feet of meeting/ballroom space. With the expansion in 2006, the Cinergy Center now has 198,000 square feet of exhibit space and 103,000 square feet of meeting/ballroom space.

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2015

(Amount in Thousands)

Assets

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents \$ 10,399

Receivables:

Accrued transit occupancy tax 2,790

Total current assets 13,189

Total assets 13,189

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Due to other governments 5,374

Accrued interest payable 271

Bonds payable – current 2,595

Total current liabilities 8,240

Noncurrent liabilities:

Bonds payable (net of unamortized premium) 72,453

Total noncurrent liabilities 72,453

Total liabilities 80,693

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Gain on Defeasance 1,387

Net Position

Restricted for project costs 3,816

Unrestricted (72,707)

Total net position \$ (68,891)

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

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

(Amounts in Thousands)

Operating revenues:

Hotel taxes – City	\$	3,262
Hotel taxes – County		<u>8,246</u>
Total operating revenues		<u>11,508</u>

Operating expenses:

Project Costs		1,184
Return of Residual Funds to City and County		5,164
Audit Fees		12
Public Officials Insurance		<u>42</u>
Total operating expenses		<u>6,402</u>
Operating Income		<u>5,106</u>

Non-operating revenues (expenses):

Interest expense		(3,182)
Bond insurance expense		-
Interest revenue		<u>456</u>
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)		<u>(2,726)</u>
Change in net position		2,380

Total net position – beginning		<u>(71,271)</u>
Total net position – ending	\$	<u>(68,891)</u>

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

CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

(Amounts in Thousands)

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Received from other governments	\$	11,085
Payments to other governments		(5,176)
Payments for project costs		(1,184)
Net cash Provided by operating activities		<u>4,725</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Payments to Refunding Debt Escrow		(72,675)
Interest paid on bonds		(3,265)
Principal paid on bonds		(2,570)
Net Cash (Used) by Capital Financing Activities		<u>(78,510)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Interest & Dividends on Investments		<u>1</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities		1

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(73,784)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>84,183</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$	<u><u>10,399</u></u>

Cash flow From Operating Activities:

Net Operating Income	\$	5,106
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Operating Income to		
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase) Decrease in Transit Occupancy Tax Receivable		(369)
Increase(Decrease) in Due to Other Governments		(12)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$	<u><u>4,725</u></u>

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

(This Page Intentionally Left Blank)

Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2015

1. Reporting Entity

The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (CFA) is an up to 11-member body corporate and politic, organized and existing under Chapter 351 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended. It is controlled by Hamilton County who may appoint 6 members. The City of Cincinnati may appoint 3 members and the remaining two members are from other municipalities. Each member may serve a 4-year term and may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms. The CFA was created in 2002 for the purpose of financing the Cincinnati Convention Center renovation and expansion, now known as the Duke Energy Center. No financial activity took place until the revenue bonds were sold in 2004.

a. Component Unit

The Convention Facilities Authority (CFA) is a component unit of Hamilton County, Ohio. The financial report of the CFA is included in the Hamilton County of Ohio financial reports. The CFA is controlled by Hamilton County, Ohio, who appoints the majority of its board members (6 out of 11).

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the CFA have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

a. Basis of Presentation

The CFA's financial statements consist of a statement of net position, a statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

b. Measurement Focus

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred inflows and liabilities are included on the statement of net position. The statement of changes in net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net

total position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the CFA finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

c. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The CFA's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the CFA receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants and donations. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the CFA must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the CFA on a reimbursement basis.

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

d. Cash and Cash Equivalents

All monies received by the CFA are accounted for by the CFA's fiscal agent, the City of Cincinnati, or the trustee. All cash received by the fiscal agent or the trustee is maintained in separate accounts in the CFA's name. For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows and presentation on the Statement of Net Position, investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the CFA, are considered to be cash equivalents.

e. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets, and liabilities and deferred inflows. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The CFA applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net positions are available.

f. Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity. For the CFA, these revenues are the contributions received for the financing of the Convention Facility and the hotel taxes for the repayment of the debt of the Convention Facility. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of

the CFA. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

g. Receivables and Payables

Hotel Occupancy tax is remitted to the CFA quarterly from the County and the City. Due to other governments represents the Return of Residual Funds.

h. Bond Premiums and Gain on Defeasance

The bond premiums and gain on defeasance are being amortized over the life of the bond in the same proportion as the annual principal payment to total outstanding principal. Bond premiums are included in the outstanding noncurrent bonds payable. Gain on defeasance is reported as deferred inflows.

i. Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial element, deferred inflows of resources, represents a source of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until then.

j. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. Deposits and Investments

Deposits – At December 31, 2015 the carrying amount of CFA deposits held by the trustee total \$10,399,000 and the bank balance was \$10,399,000. The accounts are held in custodial accounts at The Bank of New York Mellon and are not collateralized.

Investments – The Trustee for the CFA holds no investments as of December 31, 2015.

The CFA's investment policy is limited by the Cooperative Agreement with the City and the County. The eligible investments include obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States or by an agency or instrumentality of the federal government or a no-load money market fund, which consists of these obligations. The CFA may also invest in time certificates of deposits of eligible institutions, bonds and other obligations of

the State, City, or political subdivision of the State, Ohio subdivision's fund, and certain written repurchase agreements.

The CFA does not have a written credit risk policy, concentration of credit risk policy, investment rate risk policy, or foreign currency risk policy.

4. Long-term Debt

The CFA issued 30-year improvement bonds for the City of Cincinnati Convention Center Expansion (Duke Energy Center) of \$106,005,000 dated March 2, 2004. A portion of the Second Lien Improvement Bonds was defeased on August 30, 2007. On December 4, 2014 the First Lien Improvement Bonds with a balance of \$55,005,000 and Second Lien Improvement Bonds with a balance of \$16,970,000 were refunded with First Lien Improvement Bonds of \$65,135,000.

First Lien Improvement Bonds were issued on December 4, 2014 which total \$69,890,000. Interest rate on the new improvement bonds range from 2.0% to 5.0%, with yields ranging from 0.42% to 3.8%. Interest on the bonds is payable semiannually on June 1 and December 1 through 2033. Principal on the bonds is payable on each December 1. Of the \$69,890,000 total par amount, \$4,755,000 was issued for new projects, while the remaining \$65,135,000 was issued to enact the refunding described above.

	(Amounts in Thousands)				
	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Bonds payable	\$69,890	\$ 0	\$2,570	\$ 67,320	\$2,595
Plus unamortized Premium	<u>8,183</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>7,728</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$78,073</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$3,025</u>	<u>\$75,048</u>	<u>\$ 2,595</u>

The annual debt service requirements to maturity for the revenue bonds are as follows:

First Lien Improvement Bonds

Amounts in Thousands

Year Ending	Principal	Interest	Total Amount
2016	2,595	3,249	5,844
2017	2,725	3,119	5,844
2018	2,865	2,983	5,848
2019	3,005	2,839	5,844
2020-2024	17,420	11,788	29,208
2025-2029	21,285	7,002	28,287
2030-2033	17,425	2,171	19,596
Total	<u>\$ 67,320</u>	<u>\$ 33,151</u>	<u>\$ 100,471</u>

The Revenues pledged to the Trustee to support the debt include the following: The County Hotel Tax of 3.5 %, the City 2002 1.5% Hotel Tax, and the City 1% Hotel Tax.

5. Agreements / Leases

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County, dated September 30, 2002, a Cooperative Agreement between the City and the County, dated, February 9, 2004 (the “Cooperative Agreement”), and a Project Service Agreement between the City and the Authority, dated February 3, 2004, the City and the County have agreed, among other things, that the City will (i) own the Duke Energy Center, (ii) be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Duke Energy Center and (iii) manage the design and construction of the Project. Construction of the Improvements began in May 2004 and was completed in June 2006. There have been seven supplemental agreements. The most recent was executed December 16, 2015.

The CFA entered into a lease with the City of Cincinnati for the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facility for the term of the improvement bonds, issued through December 2033, for an amount sufficient to retire City Bond Anticipation Notes, of \$15.5 million. These notes were issued in anticipation of the revenue bond sale by the CFA. At the end of the lease, the City of Cincinnati will own the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facilities.

In addition, the City and CFA have entered into a lease whereby the City will operate the existing and expanded Duke Energy Convention Center Facilities for the term of the improvement bonds through December 2033.

(This page Intentionally Left Blank)



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Convention Facilities Authority
Hamilton County
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority, Hamilton County, (the CFA) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the CFA's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2016.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the CFA's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the CFA's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the CFA's financial statements. 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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2015-001 to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the CFA's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Officials' Response to Findings

The CFA's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the CFA's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the CFA's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the CFA's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 19, 2016

**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY
FOR HAMILTON COUNTY**

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

DECEMBER 31, 2015

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
--

Material Weakness

When designing the public office's system of internal controls and the specific control activities, management should consider ensuring that accounting records are properly designed, verifying the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records, and performing analytical procedures to determine the reasonableness of financial data.

In 2004 Convention Facilities Authority (CFA) paid \$1.4 million for insurance and surety coverage related to a \$106 million bond issuance. The CFA recorded the coverage as a prepaid bond insurance asset and began amortizing the cost of the coverage over the 30 year life of the 2004 bond issuance.

In December 2014, the remaining portion of the 2004 bond was refunded and replaced with a \$78 million 2014 Series Bond. The insurance and surety coverage related to the 2004 bond did not apply to the 2014 bond and the remaining \$1 million in unamortized insurance and surety coverage should have been expensed. However, the CFA maintained the \$1 million prepaid bond insurance asset on the financial statements.

The CFA has posted an adjustment to the financial statements and underlying accounting records to reduce the bond insurance prepayment and record the expense.

Failure to accurately post financial activity can lead to material misstatements in financial reporting. We recommend due care be exercised when posting entries to the financial records and annual financial report to prevent errors and to assist in accurately reflecting the CFA's financial activity in the underlying accounting records and the annual financial statements. We also recommend that management adopt procedures to periodically review posting of activity recorded in the underlying accounting records and reported in the annual financial statements.

Officials' Response:

The finding concerning the prepaid bond insurance has been corrected. It related to the December 2014 debt refunding and did not impact the December 31, 2014 net position. The adjustment to correct the finding did not materially change (\$27,000) the December 31, 2015 net position.

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

HAMILTON COUNTY CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

HAMILTON COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 28, 2016**