



Office of the County Auditor

**Shelly A. Banks, C.P.A.**

Cook County Auditor

69 West Washington, Suite 2200 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1500

**TONI PRECKWINKLE**

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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle, President  
And Board of Cook County Commissioners  
118 N. Clark Street, Room 537  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle and Board of Commissioners:

The Office of County Auditor (OCA) conducts a quarterly follow-up on open recommendations. The OCA will submit a Quarterly Open Recommendations Status Report to the County Board for referral to Audit Committee.

Please refer to the following FY'17 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Open Recommendations Status Report. As indicated in the report, since FY'13 there have been 128 recommendations made by the OCA for which 111 have been implemented and 17 not implemented. The status of the 17 open recommendations is reflected in the attached report.

We express our appreciation to all departments for providing quarterly updates to the recommendations. We are continually available to assist the departments in their implementation of the recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Banks, CPA  
Cook County Auditor

# Office of County Auditor

## FY'17 1st Quarter Open Recommendations Status

Cash Reconciliation Project		Medical Examiner, Chief Judge		
Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
6	Bank reconciliations were not always completed accurately with the proper support for variances.	Management of the departments involved agreed and will implement corrective action.	Two open departments are working on system implementations, which will address the open recommendations. The Auditor's Office will continue to monitor the system's implementation.	12/31/2017
Circuit Court Revenue Process Audit		Clerk of the Circuit Court		
Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
4	The CCC provided a high level chart indicating over \$30 million outstanding accounts in the Traffic Division, but did not provide the detail to support what this number consists of and the collection activities that have occurred.	The CAP includes the following: analysis on \$30M outstanding to determine feasibility; collection agency detailed reports and internal tracking reports; Wage Garnishment Program plan; internal processes for submitting accounts to the Local Debt Recovery Program and the State's Income Tax Refund Intercept Program along with reports supporting the activity; and Collection Agency Performance Measures for next contract.	The Clerk's Office has been working with the third party collectors to develop performance metrics and enhanced month end reporting. Along with working with the third party collectors, the Clerk's Office is working on the internal processes for improved tracking and analysis of outstanding debt to include collection analysis, support for the wage garnishment program plan, and local debt recovery program reports. The Clerk's Office will continue to provide quarterly updates on the progress.	11/30/2017
Delinquent Home Rule Tax Process		Revenue		
Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
1	Tax delinquencies are not being followed up in a timely and efficient manner to ensure the most optimal return to the County of money owed.	Management agrees with the recommendations and has plans to address them within its current process and as part of its future state integrated tax processing system implementation (ITPS).	DOR is current with the delinquent mailings. Due to the interim database solution, DOR has improved the ability to recover delinquent tax dollars efficiently. The ITPS project implementation has been updated due to receiving the contract approval and final project plan.	12/31/2017

Delinquent Home Rule Tax Process		Revenue		
Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
2	The delinquent tax account data is not being accurately and efficiently maintained to ensure the reliability of the delinquent tax accounts and amounts.	Management agrees that there is a need for a more accurate and comprehensive system to manage accounts, and as mentioned before, plans to address these issues as part of its ITPS implementation, with select improvements to its interim process.	DOR is current with the delinquent mailings. Due to the interim database solution, DOR has improved the ability to recover delinquent tax dollars efficiently. The ITPS project implementation has been updated due to receiving the contract approval and final project plan.	12/31/2017

FPD Central Warehouse Inventory		FPD		
Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
1	A comprehensive process for tracking inventory received is not in place to ensure inventory is accounted for accurately and timely to prevent loss and ensure accountability of inventory.	FPD is currently working with Netfacilities on expanding their system to better manage their processes. The schedule for the coding and migration of system modifications to the vendor's software may be beyond FPD's control. In the meantime, FPD is designing an in-house system that will help manage their inventory more efficiently, which will include tracking items and quantities to a specific date.	FPD is working on an in-house system to better manage the inventory while working with Netfacilities to expand the system capabilities.	6/1/2017

Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
2	Inventory items were not accurately accounted for in Netfacilities.	FPD is currently working with Netfacilities on expanding their system to better manage their processes. The schedule for the coding and migration of system modifications to the vendor's software may be beyond FPD's control. In the meantime, FPD is designing an in-house system that will help manage their inventory more efficiently, which will include tracking items and quantities to a specific date.	FPD is working on an in-house system to better manage the inventory while working with Netfacilities to expand the system capabilities.	6/1/2017

<b>Payroll</b>	<b>Comptroller</b>
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
1	There is a lack of standardized payroll and timekeeping processes and procedures across the County.	As part of the implementation of the new system, management is reviewing policies and procedures to ensure consistent Countywide practices. This initiative is ongoing and has an anticipated completion date of January 2016. The Comptroller's Office Payroll Department will continue to conduct annual Countywide timekeeper training sessions, which include the issuance of an updated comprehensive user guide for time entry manual. The Comptroller's Office Payroll Department will continue to work with the timekeepers on a bi-weekly basis to ensure the accuracy of payroll. The Comptroller's Office will continue to work with the Bureau of Human Resources to have more standard and efficient Countywide human resource and payroll procedures in conjunction with the current payroll upgrade project and the planned time and attendance project.	The Time and Attendance System project (Cook County Time) should be fully implemented to add controls in the first half of FY17, which extends the implementation date. The project will help standardized and automate time and attendance processes. The Comptroller's Office will continue to provide the updated status.	5/31/2017

<b>PD HOME Program</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
5	The Department does not have formal written policies and procedures for forgiving HOME loan accounts. In addition, documentation was not provided to support the specific criteria used for each HOME loan account that was listed as forgiven.	We have developed and provided to the County Auditor a draft policy. This policy will be discussed with HUD by senior management to ensure program compliance. Processes for recording the Department's decisions and record keeping will be added to the HOME Program Policies and Procedures Manual.	The PD Home Program drafted policies and procedures for the Lien Release/ Loan Forgiveness process. The PD hired new staff mid Jan 2017 and will work on finalizing the policy and procedures.	5/31/2017

<b>Sheriff's Office Payroll Overtime</b>	<b>Sheriff's Office</b>
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
3	Documentation to support overtime incurred and paid was lacking, inconsistent and is not being adequately maintained. During our testing, 49 out of 50 or 98% of the employees tested were missing at least one of the three required forms/reports totaling 789 missing forms.	The documentation system used to track overtime is being automated, which will result in a greater level of consistency across the divisions and units of our operations. The 3-Part Forms are being automated. Once the County has implemented its automated timekeeping and attendance system, most processes will become more streamlined.	As part of the implementation of the Time and Attendance System (Cook County Time), the controls are being automated and processes will be more streamlined.	5/31/2017

Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
6	There is no documented payroll supervisory review or reconciliation of overtime entered and paid to prevent or detect errors or abuse.	A payroll supervisory review and reconciliation process will be established within the next six months.	As part of the implementation of the Time and Attendance System (Cook County Time), the controls are being established for a payroll supervisory review and reconciliation process.	5/31/2017

<b>Travel Expenditures</b>	<b>Administration</b>
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
1	A standardized travel voucher does not exist to reduce opportunities for errors and to ensure an accurate reporting of all travel expenditures.	BOA established a new Transportation Expense Voucher System (TEVS) on December 1, 2015 to allow County employees to prepare and submit electronic reimbursement vouchers for mileage, taxi and public transportation reimbursement. BOA, with the Comptroller's Office assistance, plans to update the TEVS to include a fillable PDF form for requesting travel authorization as well as a travel reimbursement form to be completed once the travel event concludes.	The Travel and Business Expenses Policy and Procedures were adopted by the Vehicle Steering Committee in December. The standardized pdf fillable Travel Request Form (TRF) and Travel Reimbursement Voucher (TRV) are included in the Policy and Procedures. The new policy is on the March 8 Board Agenda for receive and file.	5/31/2017

Travel Expenditures		Administration		
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
2	Procedures for Countywide travel do not fully define all the current processes and requirements as well as contain all necessary controls over the travel reimbursement process.	BOA is currently working with the Vehicle Steering Committee on updating the Countywide Transportation and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy and procedures manual to include best practices and controls. Once the policy manual is updated, a Countywide communication and distribution will occur. The Comptroller's Office will update its internal payroll procedures and processes and implement these into its payroll operation to reflect the new requirements and processes.	The Travel and Business Expenses Policy and Procedures were adopted by the Vehicle Steering Committee in December. The standardized pdf fillable Travel Request Form (TRF) and Travel Reimbursement Voucher (TRV) are included in the Policy and Procedures. The new policy is on the March 8 Board Agenda for receive and file.	5/31/2017

Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
3	Government rates were not obtained in all cases of hotel bookings and garage parking, and per diem rates were not properly applied.	BOA plans to update the TEVS to include a fillable pdf form for requesting travel authorization as well as a travel reimbursement form to be completed once the travel event concludes. BOA is currently working with the Vehicle Steering Committee on updating the Countywide Transportation and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy and manual to include best practices and controls. BOA plans to coordinate with BOF on establishing cost reducing measures to be included in the policy manual.	The Travel and Business Expenses Policy and Procedures were adopted by the Vehicle Steering Committee in December. The standardized pdf fillable Travel Request Form (TRF) and Travel Reimbursement Voucher (TRV) are included in the Policy and Procedures. The new policy is on the March 8 Board Agenda for receive and file. All County employees will be informed of the new policy and procedures. Employees will be required to complete and submit a TRF to their department head prior to any travel being approved. After travel is completed, the employee will be required to complete the TRV which shows all the costs associated with the travel.	5/31/2017

Travel Expenditures		Administration		
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
4	Departments are not consistently granting authorization to employees prior to traveling.	BOA is currently working with Vehicle Steering Committee on updating the Countywide Transportation and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy and procedures manual to include best practices and controls and plans to include a section on the travel request form and reimbursement form for the department's/agency's signature as authorization. The Comptroller's Office will ensure that a department's/ agency's authorization is provided along with the necessary support to process payment.	The Travel and Business Expenses Policy and Procedures were adopted by the Vehicle Steering Committee in December. The standardized pdf fillable Travel Request Form (TRF) and Travel Reimbursement Voucher (TRV) are included in the Policy and Procedures. The new policy is on the March 8 Board Agenda for receive and file. All County employees will be informed of the new policy and procedures. Employees will be required to complete and submit a TRF to their department head prior to any travel being approved. After travel is completed, the employee will be required to complete the TRV which shows all the costs associated with the travel.	5/31/2017

Vendor Payment Process		Comptroller		
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
1	Vendor payment discounts are not being fully realized, and the majority of accounts payable payments are still being processed by check.	The Comptroller's Office plans to review and update vendor records as part of the Oracle EBS ERP implementation with the user departments who establish and maintain the vendor relationship. The epayable's payment initiative is promoted through the Procurement contract process and we work with the County's third party administrator on a continuing periodic basis to enhance vendor enrollment.	The Comptroller's Office is reviewing and updating vendor records as part of the Oracle EBS ERP implementation with the user departments who establish and maintain the vendor relationship. The epayable's payment initiative is promoted through the Procurement contract process and the Comptroller's Office works with the County's third party administrator on a periodic basis to enhance vendor enrollment.	5/31/2017

Vendor Payment Process	Comptroller
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Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
2	Invoices are not being processed in the most efficient manner to ensure prompt payment.	The Comptroller's Office is planning with the implementation of the Oracle EBS ERP system to implement a number of process improvements: departments will enter their invoices in the system as soon as they are received and tracking of receiving / initial processing dates should occur in the system; department approvals and Comptroller's review and processing will be completed through an automated workflow process which should eliminate the need for processing a hardcopy 29A form and reduce the time needed for submission and maintaining hardcopy documents.	The Comptroller's Office is planning with the implementation of the Oracle EBS ERP system to implement a number of process improvements: departments will enter their invoices in the system once received and tracking of receiving/initial processing dates will occur in the system; department approvals and Comptroller's review and processing will be completed through an automated workflow process, which will eliminate the need for processing a hardcopy 29A form and reduce the time needed for submission and maintaining hardcopy documents.	5/31/2017

Item #	Item	Corrective Action Plan (CAP)	Most Recent Update	ECD
4	The Comptroller's Office does not receive assurance from the departments that service invoices submitted for payment comply with the Procurement Code Section 34-310(d).	The Comptroller's Office currently reviews service invoices based on the Procurement Code, but staffing resources are limited and a large volume of invoices are processed. The Comptroller's Office agrees that the departments need to be responsible for attesting to the fact that their department has reviewed and approved the itemized work and expense records. As part of the implementation of the ERP system, the Comptroller's Office will develop an instruction manual and circulate it to user departments. With the implementation of ERP, policies will be established to strengthen controls for processing invoices.	The Comptroller's Office continues to review service invoices based on the Procurement Code, and is working with the ERP team on the system improvements.	5/31/2017

**Recommendations Status Summary FY2013 to Date**

Status	# Recommendations
Implemented	111
Not Implemented	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>