

GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of County Auditor

Randall Rice CPA CISA CIO, County Auditor
Madeline Walker CPA CFE, First Assistant County Auditor

P.O. Box 1418, Galveston, Texas 77553

(409) 770-5304

722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

November 15, 2021

Honorable Mark A. Henry, County Judge, and
Members of the Commissioners Court
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Honorable Mark A. Henry and Members of the Court:

Attached to be received and filed is the internal audit report of the FY2021 Property Tax Refunds Review that covered the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Also attached is the response letter from Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson, dated November 4, 2021.

Sincerely,

Randall Rice CPA

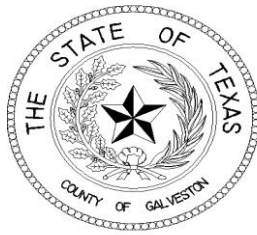
Digitally signed by Randall Rice CPA
Date: 2021.11.04 16:20:01 -05'00'

Randall Rice CPA
County Auditor

cc: Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson

Attachment: FY2021 Property Tax Refunds Review Report
Response Letter, Tax Assessor-Collector Cheryl E. Johnson

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722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

October 28, 2021

To: Honorable Cheryl Johnson
Tax Assessor-Collector

From: Randall Rice
Galveston County Auditor

Re: FY2021 Property Tax Refunds Review

The Galveston County Auditor's Office is required by statute to review property tax refunds. Internal Audit reviews refunds on a quarterly basis after refunds have been issued. We performed testing on a judgmental sample of the refunds submitted.

Our testing included verifying the accuracy of the calculated refund amount as well as ensuring the refund is being issued to the correct payee at the proper payee address. The reviews performed by both the Tax Office and the Auditor's Office are critical to preventing/detecting fraud and minimizing incorrect payments to property owners. Since the review is not a detailed examination of all transactions, there is some risk that errors and fraud may not always be detected. The official retains the responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the financial information.

During the fiscal period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, our office reviewed refunds consisting of 7,735 checks totaling \$7,516,599.97. There were 5,533 refunds totaling \$4,567,869.61 issued in the prior year. Accordingly there has been a 39.80% (2,202) increase in the number of refunds issued and a 64.55% (\$2,948,730.36) increase in the dollar amount of refunds issued.

Of the refunds reviewed by Internal Audit, no material exceptions were found. The Tax Office staff continues to follow established processing procedures regarding property tax refunds.

We wish to thank Cheryl Johnson and her staff for their cooperation and assistance.

cc: Madeline Walker CPA CFE, First Assistant County Auditor



Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC
Galveston County Tax Assessor/Collector
722 Moody, Galveston, Texas 77550
cheryl.e.johnson@co.galveston.tx.us
1-409-766-2260



November 4, 2021

Mr. Randall Rice, CPA, CISA, CIO
Galveston County Auditor
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Re: FY 2021 Property Tax Refunds Review

Dear Mr. Rice:

I am in receipt of the above referenced audit and am pleased that, as over the last 12+ years, the audit has been without findings.

As you know, the successes in the County Tax Office would not have been possible without a great Property Tax Department team, the daily, monthly and quarterly audits we perform internally along with the assistance and high level of expertise provided by the audit team of the County Auditor's Office.

Once again, I wish to express my appreciation to you and your team. Our partnership over the last 16+ years has resulted in improved accountability within the Galveston County Tax Office with the property owners and government partners are the beneficiaries of our combined effort.

Please extend my appreciation to Ms. Wood along with other members of your team who assisted with this audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl E. Johnson".

Cheryl E. Johnson

cc: LaTonya Dominick, PCC, Chief Deputy Property Tax & Support Services
Celeste Wood, Internal Auditor, Galveston County Auditor's Office