

**CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE**  
Financial Report  
Year Ended June 30, 2019

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1904-1984  
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1955-2012

Retired

Harold Dupre, CPA  
1996  
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1998  
Joel Lanclos, Jr., CPA  
2003  
Russell J. Stelly, CPA  
2005

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable Judge Gregory Vidrine  
City Court of Ville Platte  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City Court of Ville Platte as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise City Court's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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**

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 from material misstatements.

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 opinions.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City Court of Ville Platte, as of June 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with 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 that the budgetary comparison information, pension plan schedules, and notes to required supplementary information on pages 31-34 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

#### Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City Court of Ville Platte's financial statements. The other supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

The Fiduciary Fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Fiduciary Fund financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated December 9, 2019, on our consideration of the City Court of Ville Platte's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and 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 effectiveness of the City Court of Ville Platte's 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 City Court of Ville Platte's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, we have issued a report, dated December 9, 2019 on the results of our state wide agreed-upon procedures performed in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those control compliance areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's statewide agreed-upon procedures, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance.



Opelousas, Louisiana  
December 9, 2019

## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2019

	Governmental <u>Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	<u>\$ 205,790</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension	<u>43,336</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	3,276
Cash bonds payable	981
Net pension liability	<u>153,721</u>
Total liabilities	<u>157,978</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension	<u>14,483</u>
NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 76,665</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenues and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
		Fees, Fines, and Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental activities:				
Judiciary	<u>\$ 501,787</u>	<u>\$ 207,005</u>	<u>\$ 268,866</u>	\$ (25,916)
General revenues:				
Miscellaneous				<u>420</u>
Change in net position				(25,496)
Net position - July 1, 2018				<u>102,161</u>
Net position - June 30, 2019				<u>\$ 76,665</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)**

## **FUND DESCRIPTIONS**

### **General Fund**

The General Fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with governments which are not required to be accounted for in another fund.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Balance Sheet  
Governmental Fund - General Fund  
June 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	<u>\$ 205,790</u>
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 3,276
Cash bonds payable	<u>981</u>
Total liabilities	4,257

Fund balance:

Unassigned	<u>201,533</u>
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Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 205,790</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet  
to the Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2019

Total fund balance for the governmental fund at June 30, 2019	\$ 201,533
Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the fund. Those assets consist of:	
Furniture, fixtures and equipment, net of \$34,577 accumulated depreciation	-
Pension related resources are not due and payable in the current year and, therefore are not reported in the governmental fund, as follows:	
Deferred outflows of resources	43,336
Deferred inflows of resources	(14,483)
Long term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore are not reported in the governmental fund.	<u>(153,721)</u>
Net position at June 30, 2019	<u>\$ 76,665</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-  
General Fund  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Revenues:	
Costs assessed for court	\$ 162,241
Other charges for services	44,764
On-behalf payments	268,866
Miscellaneous	<u>420</u>
Total revenues	<u>476,291</u>
Expenditures:	
Current -	
Judiciary:	
Fines remitted to other governmental units	74,261
Marshall fees	20,407
Office expense	19,265
On-behalf payments	268,866
Judges retirement	14,231
Professional fees	4,100
Dues and subscriptions	1,604
Professional development	975
Appropriation to City of Ville Platte	85,608
Insurance	875
Travel	<u>5,743</u>
Total expenditures	<u>495,935</u>
Net change in fund balance	(19,644)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>221,177</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 201,533</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and  
Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund  
to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

Total net change in fund balance for the year ended June 30, 2019 per statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance	\$(19,644)
The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:	
The governmental fund reports capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense	
Depreciation expense	-
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental fund	
Pension expense	<u>(5,852)</u>
Change in net position for the year ended June 30, 2019 per statement of activities	<u>\$(25,496)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities  
June 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	<u>\$ 64,822</u>
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LIABILITIES

Due to litigants and others	<u>\$ 64,822</u>
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements of the City Court of Ville Platte have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are discussed in subsequent subsections of this note.

The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The City Court of Ville Platte is composed of an independently elected City Judge. For financial reporting purposes, the City Court of Ville Platte includes all funds which are maintained by the City Court of Ville Platte.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include the fund of the reporting entity, which is considered to be a governmental activity. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions. Fiduciary funds are not included in the GWFS. Fiduciary funds are reported only in the Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities at the fund financial statement level.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the City Court's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the City Court are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The various funds of the City Court are classified into two categories: governmental and fiduciary. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental fund. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund is at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds.

The major fund of the City Court is described below:

Governmental Fund -

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the City Court. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Additionally, the City Court reports the following fund type:

Fiduciary Fund –

Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the government in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of other funds with the City Court. The fund accounted for in the category by the City Court is the agency fund. The agency fund is as follows:

Civil Fund

The Civil Fund is used to account for the receipt and subsequent disbursement of civil docket fees, small claims fees, and garnishments.

C. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting

Measurement focus is a term used to describe “which” transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to “when” transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Measurement Focus

On the government-wide statement of net position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position. In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus or the "economic resources" measurement focus is used. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred, or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Program revenues

Program revenues included in the Statement of Activities are derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the City Court's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the City Court's general revenues.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Use of Restricted Resources

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the City Court's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

Louisiana statutes authorize City Court of Ville Platte to invest in United States bonds, treasury notes or certificates, time certificates of deposit in state and national banks, the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, or any other federally insured investments. For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits of the City Court of Ville Platte.

Interfund Receivable and Payables

During the course of operations, transactions sometimes occur between individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds. Those related to goods and services type transactions are classified as "due to and from other funds". Interfund receivables and payables between funds within governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of net position.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The City Court maintains a threshold level of \$5,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5-10 years
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CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively.

Equity Classifications

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets – consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increased by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.
- b. Restricted net position – consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets.
- c. Unrestricted net position – consist of all other net position that does not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets.”

In the fund statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balances of the government funds are classified as follows:

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Judge, which is the highest level of decision-making authority for the City Court of Ville Platte.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- d. Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the City Court of Ville Platte’s adopted policy, only the Judge may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- e. Unassigned – all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the City Court of Ville Platte considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the City Court of Ville Platte considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the City Court of Ville Platte has provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

E. Revenues, Expenditures, and Expenses

Operating Revenues

Operating revenues are those that result from providing services and producing and delivering goods and/or services. Revenues and fees and other charges for services are recorded when the City Court is entitled to the funds. Interest on interest-bearing deposits is recorded or accrued as revenue when earned. Substantially all other revenues are recorded when received.

Expenditures/Expenses

In the government-wide financial statements, expenses are classified by function. In the fund financial statements, governmental fund expenditures are classified by character.

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the City Court of Ville Platte may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The City Court may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At June 30, 2019, the City Court has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$270,612 as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Fiduciary Fund	Total
Demand deposits	\$ 142,440	\$ 64,822	\$ 207,262
Time and savings deposits	63,350	-	63,350
Total	<u>\$ 205,790</u>	<u>\$ 64,822</u>	<u>\$ 270,612</u>

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the City Court's deposits may not be recovered or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. These deposits are stated cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits, (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or similar federal security or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) of \$342,170 at June 30, 2019, were secured by FDIC. City Court of Ville Platte does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Capital Assets

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended June 30, 2019 are as follows:

	Balance 7/1/2018	Additions	Deletions	Balance 6/30/2019
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	\$ 34,577	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,577
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>34,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,577</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(4) Retirement Plan

Employees, except the Judge, of the City Court are included on the City of Ville Platte's payroll and participate in the same retirement system as the employees of that entity.

**LASERS**

**Plan Description**

One employee, the Judge, of the City Court is provided with a pension through a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan administered by the Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS). Section 401 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (LA RS 11:401) grants to LASERS Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Legislature the authority to review administration, benefit terms, investments, and funding of the plan. LASERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org).

**Benefits Provided**

The following is a description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

**Retirement Benefits**

The age and years of creditable service required in order for a member to retire with full benefits are established by statute, and vary depending on the member's hire date, employer, and job classification. Our rank and file members hired prior to July 1, 2006, may either retire with full benefits at any age upon completing 30 years of creditable service or at age 60 upon completing ten years of creditable service depending on the plan. Those members hired between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2015, may retire at age 60 upon completing five years of creditable service and those hired on or after July 1, 2015 may retire at age 62 upon completing five years of creditable service. The basic annual retirement benefit for members is equal to 2.5% to 3.5% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. Additionally, members may choose to retire with 20 years of service at any age, with an actuarially reduced benefit.

Average compensation is defined as the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 36 consecutive months of employment for members employed prior to July 1, 2006. For members hired July 1, 2006 or later, average compensation is based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. The maximum annual retirement benefit cannot exceed the lesser of 100% of average compensation or a certain specified dollar amount of actuarially determined monetary limits, which vary depending upon the member's age at retirement. Judges, court officers, and certain elected officials receive an additional annual retirement benefit equal to 1.0% of average compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service in their respective capacity. As an alternative to the basic retirement benefits, a member may elect to receive their retirement benefits under any one of six different options providing for reduced retirement benefits payable throughout their life, with certain benefits being paid to their designated beneficiary after their death.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Act 992 of the 2010 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, changed the benefit structure for LASERS members hired on or after January 1, 2011. This resulted in three new plans: regular, hazardous duty, and judges. The new regular plan includes regular members and those members who were formerly eligible to participate in specialty plans, excluding hazardous duty and judges. Regular members and judges are eligible to retire at age 60 after five years of creditable service and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Hazardous duty members are eligible to retire with twelve years of creditable service at age 55, 25 years of creditable service at any age or with a reduced benefit after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment for all three new plans. Members in the regular plan will receive a 2.5% accrual rate, hazardous duty plan a 3.33% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate. The extra 1.0% accrual rate for each year of service for court officers, the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, House clerk, sergeants at arms, or Senate secretary, employed after January 1, 2011, was eliminated by Act 992. Specialty plan and regular members, hired prior to January 1, 2011, who are hazardous duty employees have the option to transition to the new hazardous duty plan.

Act 226 of the 2014 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session established new retirement eligibility for members of LASERS hired on or after July 1, 2015, excluding hazardous duty plan members. Regular members and judges under the new plan are eligible to retire at age 62 after five years of creditable service and, may also retire at any age, with a reduced benefit, after 20 years of creditable service. Average compensation will be based on the member's average annual earned compensation for the highest 60 consecutive months of employment. Members in the regular plan will receive 2.5% accrual rate, and judges a 3.5% accrual rate, with the extra 1.0% accrual rate based on all years of service as a judge.

A member leaving employment before attaining minimum retirement age, but after completing certain minimum service requirements, becomes eligible for a benefit provided the member lives to the minimum service retirement age, and does not withdraw their accumulated contributions. The minimum service requirement for benefits varies depending upon the member's employer and service classification.

#### **Deferred Retirement Benefits**

The State Legislature authorized LASERS to establish a Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). When a member enters DROP, their status changes from active member to retiree even though they continue to work and draw their salary for a period of up to three years. The election is irrevocable once participation begins. During DROP participation, accumulated retirement benefits that would have been paid to each retiree are separately tracked. For members who entered DROP prior to January 1, 2004, interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero) will be credited to the retiree after participation ends. At that time, the member must choose among available alternatives for the distribution of benefits that have accumulated in the DROP account. Members who enter DROP on or after January 1, 2004, are required to participate in LASERS Self-Directed Plan (SDP) which is administered by a third-party provider. The SDP allows DROP participants to choose from a menu of investment options for the allocation of their DROP balances. Participants may diversify their investments by choosing from an approved list of mutual funds with different holdings, management styles, and risk factors.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DROP may elect to receive at the time of retirement an initial benefit option (IBO) in an amount up to 36 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. For members who selected the IBO option prior to January 1, 2004, such amount may be withdrawn or remain in the IBO account earning interest at a rate of one-half percent less than the System's realized return on its portfolio (not to be less than zero). Those members who select the IBO on or after January 1, 2004, are required to enter the SDP as described above.

**Disability Benefits**

Generally, active members with ten or more years of credited service who become disabled may receive a maximum disability retirement benefit equivalent to the regular retirement formula without reduction by reason of age. Upon reaching age 60, the disability retiree may receive a regular retirement benefit by making application to the Board of Trustees. For injuries sustained in the line of duty, hazardous duty personnel in the Hazardous Duty Services Plan will receive a disability benefit equal to 75% of final average compensation.

**Survivor's Benefits**

Certain eligible surviving dependents receive benefits based on the deceased member's compensation and their relationship to the deceased. The deceased regular member hired before January 11, 2011 who was in state service at the time of death must have a minimum of five years of service credit, at least two of which were earned immediately prior to death, or who had a minimum of twenty years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor or handicapped child. Benefits are payable to an unmarried child until age 18, or age 23 if the child remains a full-time student. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirement is ten years for a surviving spouse with no minor children, and benefits are to be paid for life to the spouse or qualified handicapped child.

The deceased regular member hired on or after January 1, 2011, must have a minimum of five years of service credit regardless of when earned in order for a benefit to be paid to a minor child. The aforementioned minimum service credit requirements for a surviving spouse are 10 years, 2 years being earned immediately prior to death, and active state service at the time of death, or a minimum of 20 years of service credit regardless of when earned. A deceased member's spouse must have been married for a least one year before death.

**Permanent Benefit Increases/Cost-of-Living Adjustments**

As fully described in Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the System allows for the payment of permanent benefit increases, also known as cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), that are funded through investment earnings when recommended by the Board of Trustees and approved by the State Legislature.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

**Contributions**

Contribution requirements of active employees are governed by Section 401 of Title 11 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 11:401) and may be amended by the Louisiana Legislature. Employee and employer contributions are deducted from a member's salary and remitted to LASERS by participating employers. The rates in effect during the year ended June 30, 2018 for the various plans follow:

Appellate Law Clerks	Closed	7.50%	37.90%
Appellate Law Clerks hired on or after 7/01/06	Open	8.00%	37.90%
Alcohol Tobacco Control	Closed	9.00%	32.70%
Bridge Police	Closed	8.50%	36.50%
Bridge Police hired on or after 7/01/06	Closed	8.50%	36.50%
Corrections Primary	Closed	9.00%	33.20%
Corrections Secondary	Closed	9.00%	37.60%
Harbor Police	Closed	9.00%	6.10%
Hazardous Duty	Open	9.50%	38.30%
Judges hired before 1/01/11	Closed	11.50%	40.10%
Judges hired after 12/31/10	Closed	13.00%	39.60%
Judges hired on or after 7/01/15	Open	13.00%	39.60%
Legislators	Closed	11.50%	41.70%
Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) before 7/01/06*	Closed	7.50%	33.80%
Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) on or after 7/01/06*	Closed	8.00%	33.80%
Peace Officers	Closed	9.00%	36.70%
Regular Employees hired before 7/01/06	Closed	7.50%	37.90%
Regular Employees hired on or after 7/01/06	Closed	8.00%	37.90%
Regular Employees hired on or after 1/01/11	Closed	8.00%	37.90%
Regular Employees hired on or after 7/01/15	Open	8.00%	37.90%
Special Legislative Employees	Closed	9.50%	43.70%
Wildlife Agents	Closed	9.50%	46.60%

\*For ORP the projected employer contribution effort was calculated using the shared UAL portion of the contribution rate.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

The City Court's contractually required composite contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2018 was 39.6% of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with employee contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability. Contributions to the pension plan from the City Court were \$14,231 for the year ended June 30, 2019.

**Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At June 30, 2019, the City Court reported a liability of \$153,721 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2018 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The City Court's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the City Court's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2018, the City Court's proportion was 0.00225%, which was a decrease of 0.00027% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2017.

For the year ended June 30, 2019, the City Court recognized pension expense of \$14,231 plus the City Court's amortization of change in proportionate share and difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions of \$5,852.

At June 30, 2019, the City Court reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 0	\$ 1,724
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	3,557	0
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportion of shared contributions	25,548	12,759
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	14,231	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 43,336</b>	<b>\$ 14,483</b>

Deferred outflows of resources of \$14,231 related to pensions resulting from the City Court's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2019. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Years ending June 30:	
2020	\$23,259
2021	(4,317)
2022	(3,757)
2023	(563)

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

**Actuarial Assumptions**

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability as of June 30, 2018 are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2018																		
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal																		
Actuarial Assumptions:																			
Expected Remaining Service Lives	3 years.																		
Investment Rate of Return	7.70% per annum, net of investment expenses																		
Inflation Rate	2.75% per annum.																		
Mortality	Non-disabled members - Mortality rates based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Mortality Table with mortality improvement projected to 2015. Disabled members – Mortality rates based on the RP-2000 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table, with no projection for mortality improvement.																		
Termination, Disability, and Retirement	Termination, disability, and retirement assumptions were projected based on a five-year (2009-2013) experience study of the System's members.																		
Salary Increases	Salary increases were projected based on a 2009-2013 experience study of the System's members. The salary increase ranges for specific types of members are: <table><tr><td></td><td>Lower Range</td><td>Upper Range</td></tr><tr><td>Regular</td><td>3.8%</td><td>12.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Judges</td><td>2.8%</td><td>5.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Corrections</td><td>3.4%</td><td>14.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Hazardous Duty</td><td>3.4%</td><td>14.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Wildlife</td><td>3.4%</td><td>14.3%</td></tr></table>		Lower Range	Upper Range	Regular	3.8%	12.8%	Judges	2.8%	5.3%	Corrections	3.4%	14.3%	Hazardous Duty	3.4%	14.3%	Wildlife	3.4%	14.3%
	Lower Range	Upper Range																	
Regular	3.8%	12.8%																	
Judges	2.8%	5.3%																	
Corrections	3.4%	14.3%																	
Hazardous Duty	3.4%	14.3%																	
Wildlife	3.4%	14.3%																	
Cost of Living Adjustments	The present value of future retirement benefits is based on benefits currently being paid by the System and includes previously granted cost of living increases. The projected benefit payments do not include provisions for potential future increases not yet authorized by the Board of Trustees as they were deemed not to be substantively automatic.																		

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation of 3.25% and an adjustment for the effect of rebalancing/diversification. The resulting

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

expected long-term rate of return is 8.69% for 2018. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2018 are summarized in the following table:

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Target Allocation</b>	<b>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</b>
Cash	0%	-0.24%
Domestic equity	25%	4.31%
International equity	32%	5.35%
Domestic fixed income	8%	1.73%
International fixed income	6%	2.49%
Alternative investments	22%	7.41%
Global tactical asset allocation	7%	2.84%
	100%	5.26%

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.70%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the pension plan's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the City Court's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the City Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability using the discount rate of 7.70%, as well as what the City Court's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	<b>1.0% Decrease (6.70%)</b>	<b>Current Discount Rate (7.70%)</b>	<b>1.0% Increase (8.70%)</b>
City Court's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 194,006	\$ 153,721	\$ 119,026

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued LASERS 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report at [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org)

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

(5) Expenditures of the City Court Paid by the City of Ville Platte

The cost of salaries and related benefits for the operation of the City Court, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:1889 are paid by the City of Ville Platte, Louisiana. These expenditures amounted to \$268,866 for the year ended June 30, 2019 and are recorded as revenues and as judiciary expenditures in the government-wide and General Fund financial statements.

(6) Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

City Court does not provide any post-employment benefits to retirees and therefore is not required to report under GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Post-employment Benefits Other than Pensions.

(7) Risk Management

The City Court is exposed to risks of loss in the area of employee dishonesty. This risk is handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(8) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments paid to the Ville Platte City Court Judge Gregory Vidrine for the year ended June 30, 2019 follows:

<u>Purpose:</u>	
Civil fees	\$ 36,489
Retirement	14,231
Dues	800
Registration fees	675
Hotel	1,770
Meals	260
Milage	464
Total	<u>\$ 54,689</u>

(9) Litigation

There is no litigation pending against the City Court at June 30, 2019.

(10) Subsequent Events

Subsequent events were evaluated through December 9, 2019, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. As of December 9, 2019, there were no subsequent events noted.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

General Fund  
Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Costs assessed for court	\$ 185,000	\$ 170,574	\$ 162,241	\$ (8,333)
Other charges for services	60,000	46,685	44,764	(1,921)
On-behalf payments	265,000	270,000	268,866	(1,134)
Interest income	200	125	420	295
Total revenues	<u>510,200</u>	<u>487,384</u>	<u>476,291</u>	<u>(11,093)</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
Judiciary:				
Fines remitted to other governmental units	100,000	82,045	74,261	7,784
Marshall fees	27,000	20,607	20,407	200
Office expense	22,000	25,565	19,265	6,300
On-behalf payments	265,000	270,000	268,866	1,134
Judges retirement	17,500	14,382	14,231	151
Professional fees	4,000	4,400	4,100	300
Dues and subscriptions	2,000	2,104	1,604	500
Professional development	2,000	800	975	(175)
Appropriation to City of Ville Platte	85,000	86,340	85,608	732
Insurance	875	875	875	-
Travel	<u>1,000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>5,743</u>	<u>(5,243)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>526,375</u>	<u>507,618</u>	<u>495,935</u>	<u>11,683</u>
Net change in fund balance	(16,175)	(20,234)	(19,644)	590
Fund balances, beginning	<u>215,878</u>	<u>221,177</u>	<u>221,177</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances, ending	<u>\$ 199,703</u>	<u>\$ 200,943</u>	<u>\$ 201,533</u>	<u>\$ 590</u>

See independent auditor's report.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019\*

<u>Year ended June 30,</u>	<u>Employer's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)</u>	<u>Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)</u>	<u>Employer's covered employee payroll</u>	<u>Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll</u>	<u>Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability</u>
Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System					
2019	0.00225%	\$153,721	\$42,394	363%	64.30%
2018	0.00252%	\$177,660	\$43,858	405%	62.50%
2017	0.00143%	\$112,291	\$48,947	229%	57.70%
2016	0.00206%	\$139,975	\$17,136	817%	62.70%

\*Amounts presented were determined as of the measurement date (previous fiscal year end).

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.  
Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See independent auditor's report.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer Contributions  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019\*

<u>Year Ended June 30,</u>	<u>(a) Statutorily Required Contribution</u>	<u>(b) Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution</u>	<u>(a-b) Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</u>	<u>Employer's covered employee payroll</u>	<u>Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll</u>
Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System					
2019	\$14,231	\$14,231	\$-	\$36,489	39.00%
2018	\$16,788	\$16,788	\$-	\$42,394	39.60%
2017	\$16,096	\$16,096	\$-	\$43,858	36.70%
2016	\$19,236	\$19,236	\$-	\$48,947	39.30%
2015	\$6,203	\$6,203	\$-	\$17,136	36.20%

\*Amounts presented were determined as of the end of each fiscal year.

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.  
Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See independent auditor's report.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The proposed budget is submitted to the Judge for the fiscal year no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Ville Platte City Court. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.

(2) Pension Plan

There were no changes of benefit terms for the year ended June 30, 2018. Changes in actuarial assumptions related to inflation and salary factors in the measurement of the total pension liability were recognized in pension expense using the straight line amortization method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees that are provided with pensions through the pension plan. These assumptions include the rate of investment return, mortality of plan members, rate of salary increase, rates of retirement, rates of termination, rates of disability and various other factors that have an impact on the cost of the plans.

## **OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

## **OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

## **FIDUCIARY FUNDS**

### **Civil Fund**

To account for the receipt and subsequent disbursement of civil docket fees, small claims fees, and garnishments. Funds are posted by the plaintiff filing the suit and are held until the cases are processed. After the cases are processed, funds are disbursed.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Statement of Fiduciary Assets and Liabilities  
Agency Fund - Civil Fund  
June 30, 2019

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	<u>\$ 64,822</u>
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LIABILITIES

Due to litigants and others	<u>\$ 64,822</u>
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VILLE PLATTE CITY COURT  
Ville Platte, Louisiana  
Agency Funds

Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities- Civil Fund  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

ASSETS

Balances, beginning of year	<u>\$ 67,282</u>
Additions:	
Costs assessed for court	82,524
Miscellaneous	<u>2,663</u>
Total additions	<u>85,187</u>
Reductions:	
Court costs	17,509
Marshall fees	4,714
Judge's supplemental compensation fund	15,334
Civil fees - judge and marshal	41,004
Operating expenses	<u>9,086</u>
Total reductions	<u>87,647</u>
Balances, end of year	<u>\$ 64,822</u>

LIABILITIES

Due to litigants and others, beginning of year	\$ 67,282
Additions	85,187
Reductions	<u>87,647</u>
Due to litigants and others, end of year	<u>\$ 64,822</u>

## **INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE**

James L. Nicholson, Jr., CPA  
G. Kenneth Pavy, II, CPA  
Michael A. Roy, CPA  
Lisa Trouille Manuel, CPA  
Dana D. Quebedeaux, CPA



**JOHN S. DOWLING & COMPANY**  
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Van L. Auld, CPA

John S. Dowling, CPA  
1904-1984  
John Newton Stout, CPA  
1936-2005  
Chizal S. Fontenot, CPA  
1955-2012

Retired

Harold Dupre, CPA  
1996  
Dwight Ledoux, CPA  
1998  
Joel Lanclos, Jr., CPA  
2003  
Russell J. Stelly, CPA  
2005

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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**

Honorable Judge Gregory Vidrine  
City Court of Ville Platte  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

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 financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City Court of Ville Platte, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City Court of Ville Platte's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 9, 2019.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City Court of Ville Platte'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 the City Court of Ville Platte's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City Court of Ville Platte'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 a 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses that we consider to be a significant deficiency as item 2019-1.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City Court of Ville Platte's financial statements are free from 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 matter that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

City Court of Ville Platte's Response to Finding

City Court of Ville Platte's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses. City Court of Ville Platte's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

*John S. Dowling & Company*

Opelousas, Louisiana  
December 9, 2019

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Responses  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

I. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

1. The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the basic financial statements of the City Court of Ville Platte, Louisiana.
2. One significant deficiency and no material weakness relating to the audit of the financial statements is reported in the Independent Auditor's 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.
3. No instance of noncompliance relating to the audit of the financial statements was reported in the Independent Auditor's 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.
4. No management letter was issued.
5. There was no single audit requirement under Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (Uniform Guidance).

II. FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

INTERNAL CONTROL

2019-1 Segregation of Duties

Condition: Due to the small number of employees, the City Court did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

Criteria: Accounting duties should be segregated among employees.

Cause: There are a small number of employees at City Court performing the daily operating activities.

Effect: Accounting functions are not segregated, and it is important that you are aware of this condition because errors or fraud could occur and not be detected.

Recommendation: A system of internal control should be established in order to mitigate the problem of having such a small number of employees performing the daily accounting functions.

Response: Due to the small size and nature of the entity and its staff, the recommended practice/procedure would be impractical.

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Findings and Responses  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

II. FINDINGS – FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT (Continued)

Contact Person: Judge Gregory Vidrine

COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

N/A

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Schedule of Prior Year Findings  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

SECTION I – Internal Control and Compliance

Internal Control

2018-1 Segregation of Duties

Unresolved

Compliance

None

SECTION II – Management Letter

None

James L. Nicholson, Jr., CPA  
G. Kenneth Pavy, II, CPA  
Michael A. Roy, CPA  
Lisa Trouille Manuel, CPA  
Dana D. Quebedeaux, CPA

Van L. Auld, CPA



**JOHN S. DOWLING & COMPANY**  
A CORPORATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
www.jsdc-cpas.com

John S. Dowling, CPA  
1904-1984  
John Newton Stout, CPA  
1936-2005  
Chizal S. Fontenot, CPA  
1955-2012

Retired

Harold Dupre, CPA  
1996  
Dwight Ledoux, CPA  
1998  
Joel Landlos, Jr., CPA  
2003  
Russell J. Stelly, CPA  
2005

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**  
**ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Honorable Judge Gregory Vidrine  
City Court of Ville Platte  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by City Court of Ville Platte (Entity) and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the LLA's Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The Entity's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of Government Auditing Standards. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified users of this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

**Written Policies and Procedures**

1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations):
  - a) **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget  
*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for budgeting.*
  - b) **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.  
*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for purchasing.*
  - c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.  
*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for disbursements.*

- d) **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for receipts/collections.*

- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked.

*Not applicable, City Court does not have employees.*

- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.

*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for contracting.*

- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).

*Not applicable since City Court does not have credit cards (or debit cards, fuel cards, P-cards).*

- h) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.

*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for travel and expense reimbursements. City Court uses the IRS and Supreme Court guidelines for all travel and expense reimbursements.*

- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that all employees, including elected officials, annually attest through signature verification that they have read the entity's ethics policy.

*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for ethics.*

- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continued disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.

*Not applicable, City Court does not have debt service.*

- k) **Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.

*City Court does not have written policies and procedures for disaster recovery/business continuity.*

### **Bank Reconciliations**

3. Obtain a listing of client bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected each account, and observe that:

*Obtained a listing of City Court's bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete.*

- a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);

*No exceptions noted.*

- b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and

*No exceptions noted.*

- c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

*No exceptions noted.*

### **Collections**

4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).

*Obtained a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete.*

5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:

*For the deposit site selected, obtained a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete.*

- a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.

*There are two separate drawers for each collection location and collections are made by two separate employees.*

- b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.

*Deposits are made by a different employee each week, however, at certain times, it is possible that the same employee collecting checks/money orders and preparing deposit slips is also making bank deposits.*

- c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.

*An outside CPA firm is responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger.*

- d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee verifies the reconciliation.

*There is only one employee in each collection location, therefore, the same employee collecting checks/money orders is reconciling daily reports to the deposit slips. However, an outside CPA firm reconciles collections to the general ledger for each bank account on a monthly basis.*

6. Inquire of management that all employees who have access to cash are covered by a bond or insurance policy for theft.

*All persons responsible for collecting check and money orders (cash is not accepted) are bonded.*

7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc. Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

*Randomly selected two deposit dates for each bank account, a total of four deposits were selected.*

- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.

*For the four deposits selected, no exceptions were noted.*

- b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.

*For the four deposits selected, no exceptions were noted.*

- c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.

*For the four deposits selected, no exceptions were noted.*

- d) Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100).

*For the four deposits selected, no exceptions were noted.*

- e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

*For the four deposits selected, no exceptions were noted.*

**Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)**

8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).

*Obtained a listing of locations that processed payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. City Court only had one location that processed payments.*

9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:

- a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.

*The Clerk of Court initiates a purchase and makes a purchase, while the Judge approves the purchase.*

- b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.

*The Clerk of Court processes payments to vendors and the Judge approves payments to vendors.*

- c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.

*The clerk responsible for processing payments is not prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files.*

- d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.

*The clerk, who is responsible for processing payments, mails the payment once the check is signed by the Judge.*

10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:

a) Observe that the disbursement matched the related original invoice/billing statement.

*For the five disbursements selected, no exceptions were noted.*

b) Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.

*For the five disbursements selected, evidence of the Judge's approval was included on the documentation.*

***Other***

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16. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.

*Per management, no misappropriations of public funds or assets during the fiscal period.*

17. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

*The notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 is posted on the entrance door of City Court.*

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

Opelousas, Louisiana  
December 9, 2019

CITY COURT OF VILLE PLATTE  
Ville Platte, Louisiana

Management's Response to Exceptions  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

**Management's response to all the agreed-upon procedure exceptions is as follows:**

Due to the small size and nature of the entity and its staff, the recommended practice/procedure would be impractical.