



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY  
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County  
Hamilton County  
801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

To the Board of Directors:

### ***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Hamilton County, Ohio (the Authority), as of and for the year ended December 21, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

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

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

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support 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 Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Hamilton County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 6 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Authority. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

**Other Matters**

*Required Supplementary Information*

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

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 12, 2020, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 12, 2020

# Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio Management's Discussion and Analysis

## Overview

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

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

## Financial Highlights

The CFA's total net position increased by \$3.4 million. This is due to an increase in Hotel taxes from Hamilton County (County) and a decrease in capital project expenses.

Operating Revenue for the CFA increased by \$762 thousand. Upon completion of the project, each year the remaining funds in the distribution account on February 28<sup>th</sup> after the payment of the prior year's debt service will be returned to the City and the County on a pro-rata share before March 31<sup>st</sup>. The sources of funds in this account are the Hotel Tax collections. The amounts distributed from the 2018 receipts were \$6.3 million to the County and \$1.4 million to the City. The 2019 amounts available for distribution are \$7 million to the County and \$1.5 million to the City.

Operating expenses increased by \$556 thousand and operating revenues increased by \$762 thousand in 2019.

## Financial Statements

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

The following statements are included in this report:

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

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

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

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

**Financial Analysis**

***Statement of Net Position***

**Summary Statement of Net Position**

(Amounts in Thousands)

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Current and Other Assets	\$ 13,604	\$ 12,737
Current Liabilities	11,861	10,718
Long-term Liabilities Outstanding	58,883	62,493
Total Liabilities	<u>70,744</u>	<u>73,211</u>
Deferred Inflows	1,050	1,134
Net Position:		
Restricted for Capital Projects	1,176	1,176
Unrestricted	<u>(59,366)</u>	<u>(62,784)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (58,190)</u>	<u>\$ (61,608)</u>

Long-term liabilities for 2019 were \$58.9 million, consisting of \$53.0 million of outstanding debt due more than one year and \$5.9 million of unamortized bond premiums, compared to \$62.5 million in 2018. Total debt payments in 2019 were \$3 million in principal and \$2.8 million in interest. The debt will be repaid from specifically identified Hotel Tax revenues collected by both Hamilton County, Ohio (County) and the City.

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*Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position*

**Summary Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

(Amounts in Thousands)

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Operating Revenues	\$ 14,241	\$ 13,479
Non-Operating Revenues	656	601
Total Revenues	<u>14,897</u>	<u>14,080</u>
Operating Expenses	8,737	8,181
Non-operating Expenses	2,742	2,886
Total Expenses	<u>11,479</u>	<u>11,067</u>
Change in Net Position	3,418	3,013
Net Position, January 1	<u>(61,608)</u>	<u>(64,621)</u>
Net Position, December 31	<u><u>\$ (58,190)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (61,608)</u></u>

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

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

**Budgetary Highlights**

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

## **Debt Administration**

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

The CFA's revenue bond ratings are:

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

## **Economic Factors**

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

The financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Convention Facilities Authority finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Finance Director, City Hall, Room 250, 801 Plum Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2019

(Amount in Thousands)

**Assets**

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents \$ 10,217

Receivables:

Accrued Transit Occupancy Tax 3,387

Total Current Assets 13,604

Total Assets 13,604

**Liabilities**

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable 5

Due to Other Governments 8,477

Accrued Interest Payable 224

Bonds Payable – Current 3,155

Total Current Liabilities 11,861

Noncurrent Liabilities:

Bonds Payable (Plus Unamortized Premium) 58,883

Total Noncurrent Liabilities 58,883

Total Liabilities 70,744

**Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Gain on Defeasance 1,050

**Net Position**

Restricted for Project Costs 1,176

Unrestricted (59,366)

Total Net Position \$ (58,190)

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

**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019  
(Amounts in Thousands)

<b>Operating Revenues:</b>	
Hotel taxes – City	\$ 4,263
Hotel taxes – County	<u>9,978</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>14,241</u>
 <b>Operating Expenses:</b>	
Return of Residual Funds to City and County	8,707
Audit Fees	10
Legal Fees	5
Public Officials Insurance	<u>15</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>8,737</u>
Operating Income	<u>5,504</u>
 <b>Non-operating Revenues (Expenses):</b>	
Interest Expense	(2,742)
Interest Revenue	<u>656</u>
Total Non-operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(2,086)</u>
Change in Net Position	3,418
 Total Net Position – Beginning	 <u>(61,608)</u>
Total Net Position – Ending	\$ <u>(58,190)</u>

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

**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

(Amounts in Thousands)

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Received from Other Governments	\$	14,130
Payments to Other Governments		<u>(7,691)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		6,439

**CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Interest Paid on Bonds		(2,839)
Principal Paid on Bonds		<u>(3,005)</u>
Net Cash (Used) by Capital Financing Activities		(5,844)

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Interest & Dividends on Investments		<u>201</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities		201

Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		796
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year		<u>9,421</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$	<u><u>10,217</u></u>

**Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:**

Net Operating Income	\$	5,504
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Operating Income to Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase) Decrease in Transit Occupancy Tax Receivable		(71)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable		(10)
Increase (Decrease) in Due to Other Governments		<u>1,016</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$	<u><u>6,439</u></u>

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

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**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019**

**1. Reporting Entity**

The Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio (CFA) is an up to 11-member body corporate and politic, organized and existing under Chapter 351 of the Ohio Revised Code, as amended. It is controlled by Hamilton County who may appoint 6 members. The City of Cincinnati may appoint 3 members and the remaining 2 members are from other municipalities. Each member may serve a 4-year term and may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms. The CFA was created in 2002 for the purpose of financing the Cincinnati Convention Center renovation and expansion, now known as the Duke Energy Convention Center. No financial activity took place until the revenue bonds were sold in 2004.

**a. Component Unit**

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

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

**a. Basis of Presentation**

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

**b. Measurement Focus**

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred inflows and liabilities are included on the statement of net position. The statement of changes in net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the CFA finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

**c. Basis of Accounting**

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

**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019**

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

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

**d. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

**e. Net Position**

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

**f. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity. For the CFA, these revenues are the contributions received for the financing of the Convention Facility and the hotel taxes for the repayment of the debt of the Convention Facility. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the CFA. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

**g. Receivables and Payables**

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

**h. Bond Premiums and Gain on Defeasance**

The bond premiums and gain on defeasance are being amortized over the life of the bond in the same proportion as the annual debt service payments to total outstanding debt service payments. Bond premiums are included in the outstanding noncurrent bonds payable. Gain on defeasance is reported as a deferred inflow of resources.



**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019**

**i. Deferred Inflows of Resources**

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

**j. Estimates**

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

**3. Deposits and Investments**

*Deposits* – At December 31, 2019 the carrying amount of CFA deposits held by the trustee total \$10,217,000 and the bank balance was \$10,217,000. The accounts are held in custodial accounts at The Bank of New York Mellon and are not collateralized.

*Investments* – The Trustee for the CFA holds no investments as of December 31, 2019.

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

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

**4. Long-term Debt**

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

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

**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019**

(Amounts in Thousands)

	Beginning <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Ending <u>Balance</u>	Due Within <u>One Year</u>
Bonds Payable	\$ 59,135		\$ 3,005	\$ 56,130	\$ 3,155
Plus Unamortized Premium	<u>6,363</u>		<u>455</u>	<u>5,908</u>	
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 65,498</u>		<u>\$ 3,460</u>	<u>\$ 62,038</u>	<u>\$ 3,155</u>

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

**First Lien Improvement Bonds**

(Amounts in Thousands)

Year Ending	Principal	Interest	Total Amount
2020	\$ 3,155	\$ 2,689	\$ 5,844
2021	3,310	2,531	5,841
2022	3,475	2,366	5,841
2023	3,650	2,192	5,842
2024	3,830	2,010	5,840
2025-2029	21,285	7,002	28,287
2030-2033	17,425	2,171	19,596
Total	<u>\$ 56,130</u>	<u>\$ 20,961</u>	<u>\$ 77,091</u>

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

In December 2014, CFA defeased a portion of the First Lien and Second Lien Improvement Bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the CFA's financial statements. The chart below depicts the defeased bonds:

**Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Ohio**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2019**

(Amounts in Thousands)

<b>Refunded Date</b>	<b>Par Amount</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Call Date</b>
12/4/2014	\$ 5,585	4%	12/1/2023
12/4/2014	28,810	5%	12/1/2023
	<u>\$ 34,395</u>		

**5. Agreements / Leases**

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County, dated September 30, 2002, a Cooperative Agreement between the City and the County, dated, February 9, 2004 (the “Cooperative Agreement”), and a Project Service Agreement between the City and the Authority, dated February 3, 2004, the City and the County have agreed, among other things, that the City will (i) own the Duke Energy Convention Center, (ii) be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Duke Energy Convention Center and (iii) manage the design and construction of the Project. Construction of the Improvements began in May 2004 and was completed in June 2006. There have been eight supplemental agreements. The eighth supplement was executed July 2, 2019.

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

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

**6. Subsequent Events**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Convention Facilities Authority. The future operating costs, revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated at this time.

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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SouthwestRegion@ohioauditor.gov

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

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

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the Convention Facilities Authority for Hamilton County, Hamilton County, (the Authority) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 12, 2020.

### ***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Authority's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

### ***Compliance and Other Matters***

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

***Purpose of this Report***

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 12, 2020

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**CONVENTION FACILITIES AUTHORITY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY OHIO**

**HAMILTON COUNTY**

## **CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
JUNE 2, 2020**