

**KNOX COUNTY CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS BUREAU  
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO**

**AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2023 & 2022**



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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800-282-0370

Board of Trustees  
Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
501 South Main Street  
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

We have reviewed the *Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures* of the Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted this report in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Faber'.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

**June 12, 2024**

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## Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Knox County  
501 South Main Street  
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau's (the Bureau) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Bureau. The Bureau is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Bureau.

The Board of Trustees and the management of the Bureau have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Bureau's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the 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.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

### Cash and Investments

1. We recalculated the December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the January 1, 2022 beginning fund balances recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2021 balances in the prior year documentation in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the January 1, 2023 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the General Ledger Report to the December 31, 2022 balances in the General Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.
3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 bank reconciliation as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 to the total fund cash balances reported in the Balance Sheet Reports. The amounts agreed.
4. We observed the year-end bank balances on the financial institution's website. The balances agreed. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected the one reconciling debit (such as an outstanding check) from the December 31, 2023 bank reconciliation:

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- a. We traced the debit to the subsequent March financial institutions website transaction listing. We found no exceptions.
  - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register and determined the debits were dated prior to December 31. We found no exceptions.
6. We traced interbank account transfers occurring in December of 2023 and 2022 to the accounting records and bank statements to determine if they were properly recorded. We found no exceptions.
  7. We inspected investments held at December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 to determine that they were of a type authorized by the Bureau. We found no exceptions.

**Cash Receipts**

1. We confirmed with Knox County the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2023 and 2022. Knox County confirmed the following amounts:

<b>Year Ended</b>	<b>Amount</b>
December 31, 2023	\$278,641
December 31, 2022	\$255,667

2. We confirmed with City of Mount Vernon the lodging taxes it paid to the Bureau during the years ending December 31, 2023 and 2022. The City of Mount Vernon confirmed the following amounts:

<b>Year Ended</b>	<b>Amount</b>
December 31, 2023	\$32,492
December 31, 2022	\$28,810

3. We compared the amounts from step 1 to amounts recorded as lodging tax receipts on the Bureau’s General Ledger Report. We found no exceptions.

**Cash Disbursements**

1. We inquired of management regarding sources describing allowable purposes or restrictions related to the Bureau’s disbursements of lodging taxes. We listed these sources and summarized significant related restrictions below:

**Source of Restrictions**

- a. The Bureau’s Articles of Incorporation
- b. The Bureau’s 501(c)(6) Tax Exemption
- c. The Bureau’s Bylaws/Code of Regulations
- d. Contract with the City of Mount Vernon- Ordinance No. 2019-39
- e. Knox County Resolutions 625-2020 and 768-2015
- f. Ohio Rev. Code § 5739.092

The Bureau’s tax exemption prohibits it from disbursements supporting a candidate’s election.

Ohio Rev. Code § 5739.092 restricts the Bureau to spending lodging tax “specifically for promotion, advertising, and marketing of the region in which the county is located.”

Auditor of State Bulletin 2003-005 concludes that disbursement of public funds (e.g. lodging taxes) for alcohol are generally improper. However, Auditor of State Bulletin 2014-003 explains when sales of alcohol at public events are permissible.

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The Knox County resolutions 768-2015 and 625-2020 permits the Bureau to spend lodging taxes for promotion and publicizing of the County in order to bring patronage and business of tourists, and cultural, educational, religious, professional, and sports organizations into the County, for the benefit of citizens and of the County and the of the business community thereof.

The contract with the City of Mount Vernon, Ordinance No. 2019-39, permits the Bureau to spend the lodging taxes for the purposes of the tourism destination marketing and tourism destination development.

We selected 10 disbursements of lodging taxes from the General Ledger Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 10 disbursements from 2022 and compared the purpose for these disbursements as documented on vendor invoices or other supporting documentation to the sources of restrictions listed in *Cash Disbursements Step 1* above. We found no instances where the purpose described on the invoice or other supporting documentation described a violation of the restrictions listed above.

We were engaged by the Bureau to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement of the Bureau's lodging tax receipts and disbursements for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the objective of which would have been to opine on lodging tax receipts and disbursements or provide a conclusion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that we would have reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Bureau and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.



Julian & Grube, Inc.  
May 28, 2024

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**KNOX COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**

**KNOX COUNTY**

**AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

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



**Certified for Release 6/25/2024**

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)