



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**STEEL VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

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Steel Valley Regional Transit Authority
Jefferson County
555 Adams Street
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To the Steel Valley Regional Transit Authority Board Members, and Transit Manager, Tim Turner:

Background

The Auditor of State (AOS), Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducted a criminal investigation and special audit of the Steel Valley Regional Transit Authority (SVRTA) predicated on information alleging a possible theft by a former SVRTA employee.

The investigation began on October 17, 2023, after SIU received a complaint from SVRTA alleging former bus driver, Frederick Hannahs, utilized sick leave to extend his employment with SVRTA while also obtaining a job at the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities (the Board) as a bus driver.

After the information obtained from interviews and preliminary examination of SVRTA and the Board's payroll records and Mr. Hannahs' sick leave documentation was considered, a special audit was declared by the Auditor of State.

This engagement was conducted in accordance with the [Auditor of State Special Investigations Unit, Quality Standards](#).

Suspect

Frederick Hannahs was hired by SVRTA in December 2019 as a bus driver and worked in this capacity until his termination on October 1, 2023.

Scheme

We defined our audit period (the Period) as covering June 11, 2023, through October 14, 2023, during which Mr. Hannahs requested sick leave until his termination from SVRTA. We noted between September 3, 2023 and October 1, 2023, Mr. Hannahs provided SVRTA with doctor's notes excusing him from work. However, during that time, Mr. Hannahs obtained a job at the Board and worked as a bus driver while using 152 hours of sick leave at SVRTA. As a result, Mr. Hannahs was paid \$3,567.44 for using his sick leave while working at the Board.

Findings

Based on the special audit procedures and investigation, the Auditor of State confirmed the allegation that Mr. Hannahs misappropriated \$3,567.44 over a span of 4 weeks.

We issued a \$3,567.44 finding for recovery for misappropriated cash during the Period.

The full details of the finding for recovery are located in the Appendix.

Prosecution

At the conclusion of the special audit and investigation, a prosecution packet was presented to the Auditor of State Special Prosecutor, serving by appointment of the Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney.

On December 4, 2024, the Jefferson County grand jury returned a no bill and declined to indict Mr. Hannahs.

The exit conference was waived by SVRTA; however, SVRTA was given five days to respond to this special audit report. A response was not received from SVRTA.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 3, 2025



APPENDIX
SCHEDULE OF FINDING FOR RECOVERY

APPENDIX

FINDING FOR RECOVERY

Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-01(D)(1) requires, in part, that entities ensure that all transactions are properly authorized in accordance with management's policies. **SVRTA's Collective Bargaining Agreement and Employee Handbook (Policy 307)** established sick leave policies which allowed for the granting of sick leave to employees who are unable to work because of illness or injury of the employee or a member of his or her immediate family and defined the misuse of sick leave as "the use of sick leave for that purpose for which it was not intended or provided. The policy also allowed for accrued sick leave hours to be purchased from the employee at a rate of fifty percent of the current hourly rate of pay upon retirement or resignation from employment.

In addition, **SVRTA's Employee Handbook (Policy 110)** establishes guidelines for outside employment which noted SVRTA is considered the primary employer for all permanent employees. Outside employment may not interfere with employee's performance or ability to meet the requirements of SVRTA.

Our analysis identified two payments, totaling \$3,567.44, for sick leave used and paid when Mr. Hannahs was working as a bus driver for a secondary employer. However, the use of sick leave to extend employment while working for a secondary employer is not consistent with SVRTA policies.

In accordance with the foregoing facts and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.28, a finding for recovery for public monies converted or misappropriated is hereby issued against Frederick Hannahs, in the amount of \$3,567.44 and in favor of the SVRTA's Enterprise Fund.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



STEEL VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY SPECIAL AUDIT

JEFFERSON 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 4/17/2025

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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