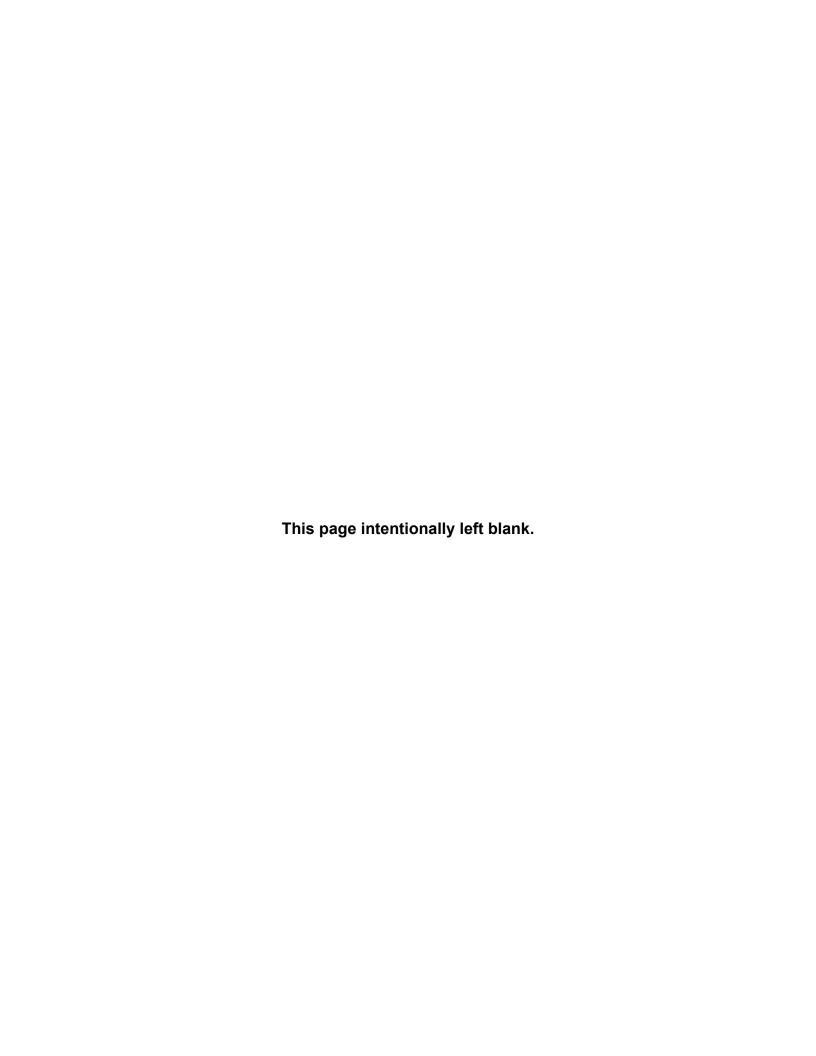




DEFIANCE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION DEFIANCE COUNTY DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation Defiance County 500 West Second Street, Suite 101 Defiance, Ohio 43512

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Adverse Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements of Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation, Defiance County, Ohio (the Corporation), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Financial Statements as a Whole* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Corporation, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Financial Statements as a Whole

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Corporation on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. However, Ohio Revised Code Section 1724.05 requires these statements to follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumably material and pervasive.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Corporation, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse audit opinion.

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Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation Defiance County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit; and for 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
 fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures
 include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial
 statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Corporation's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that
 raise substantial doubt about the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable
 period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation Defiance County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 22, 2023, on our consideration of the Corporation'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. The purpose of that report is solely 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 Corporation'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 Corporation's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

November 22, 2023

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Defiance County

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis) - General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Cash Receipts Intergovernmental Revenue Lease/Sales Properties Miscellaneous		645,605 22,812 8,706
Total Cash Receipts		677,123
Cash Disbursements Advertising Fees Auditor Expenses Conferences / Conventions Environmental/Asbestos Fees Membership Dues Office Supplies Property Maintenance Property Purchase/Real Estate Taxes Title Fees		457 101 767 604,577 500 1,238 374 40,000 42
Total Cash Disbursements		648,056
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance		29,067
Fund Cash Balance, January 1		95,969
Fund Cash Balance, December 31		125,036

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

Defiance County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the right and privileges of Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation, Defiance County, Ohio (the Corporation) as a body corporate and politic. The Corporation was organized as a not-for-profit community improvement corporation by the Board of Commissioners of Defiance County April 26, 2019, under the authority granted under Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Corporation's purpose is to promote and facilitate the reclamation, rehabilitation and reutilizations of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed or other real property in Defiance County. By strategically acquiring properties and returning them to productive use, the Corporation works to reduce blight, increase property values, strengthen neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for all of Defiance County residents.

The Corporation's governing board is a five member Board of Directors (the Board), consisting of the County Treasurer, two members of the Board of County Commissioners of Defiance County, a representative of the largest municipality in Defiance County, and an unanimously selected director chosen by the County Treasurer and two Commissioners of Defiance County.

The Corporation's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the Corporation is financially accountable.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Corporation's financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and change in fund balance (regulatory cash basis) for the General Fund.

Fund Accounting

The Corporation uses one fund and classifies it as the General Fund. The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources for the Corporation.

Capital Assets

The Corporation records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 1724.05 to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the Corporation chooses to prepare its financial statement and notes in accordance with standards established by the Auditor of State for governmental entities that are not required to prepare annual financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This basis of accounting is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis.

Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in this financial statement.

Defiance County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022 (Continued)

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Corporation must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Corporation classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Board of Directors can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Corporation must adhere to these commitments unless the Board of Directors amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications.

The Corporation applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Note 3 - Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code Section 1724.05 requires the Corporation to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, the Corporation prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statement omits assets, liabilities, net assets/fund balance, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The Corporation can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the Corporation.

Note 4 - Deposits

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Corporation's deposit accounts are as follows:

	2022	
Demand deposits	\$125,036	

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Defiance County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022
(Continued)

Note 5 - Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The Corporation is subject to certain types of risk in the performance of its normal functions. The Corporation has obtained commercial insurance covering property and general liability risks.

Note 6 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Corporation are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 7 - Fund Balance

The fund balance of the General Fund is unrestricted.

Defiance County

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis) - General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Cash Receipts		
Intergovernmental Revenue		145,444
Cash Disbursements Accounting/Legal Fees Advertising Fees Auditor Expenses Contract Services Demolition/Landfill Costs		394 102 397 3,800 15,790
Environmental/Asbestos Fees Membership Dues Property Maintenance Title Fees		95,225 250 11 652
Total Cash Disbursements		116,621
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance		28,823
Fund Cash Balance, January 1		67,146
Fund Cash Balance, December 31		95,969

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

Defiance County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the right and privileges of Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation, Defiance County, Ohio (the Corporation) as a body corporate and politic. The Corporation was organized as a not-for-profit community improvement corporation by the Board of Commissioners of Defiance County April 26, 2019, under the authority granted under Chapter 1724 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Corporation's purpose is to promote and facilitate the reclamation, rehabilitation and reutilizations of vacant, abandoned, tax-foreclosed or other real property in Defiance County. By strategically acquiring properties and returning them to productive use, the Corporation works to reduce blight, increase property values, strengthen neighborhoods, and improve the quality of life for all of Defiance County residents.

The Corporation's governing board is a five member Board of Directors (the Board), consisting of the County Treasurer, two members of the Board of County Commissioners of Defiance County, a representative of the largest municipality in Defiance County, and an unanimously selected director chosen by the County Treasurer and two Commissioners of Defiance County.

The Corporation's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the Corporation is financially accountable.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Corporation's financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and change in fund balance (regulatory cash basis) for the General Fund.

Fund Accounting

The Corporation uses one fund and classifies it as the General Fund. The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources for the Corporation.

Capital Assets

The Corporation records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Rev. Code Section 1724.05 to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the Corporation chooses to prepare its financial statement and notes in accordance with standards established by the Auditor of State for governmental entities that are not required to prepare annual financial reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This basis of accounting is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis.

Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in this financial statement.

Defiance County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 (Continued)

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Corporation must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Corporation classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed The Board of Directors can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Corporation must adhere to these commitments unless the Board of Directors amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications.

The Corporation applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Note 3 - Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code Section 1724.05 requires the Corporation to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, the Corporation prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statement omits assets, liabilities, net assets/fund balance, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The Corporation can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the Corporation.

Note 4 - Deposits

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Corporation's deposit accounts are as follows:

	2021	
Demand deposits	\$95,969	

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Defiance County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021
(Continued)

Note 5 - Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The Corporation is subject to certain types of risk in the performance of its normal functions. The Corporation has obtained commercial insurance covering property and general liability risks.

Note 6 - Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Corporation are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 7 - Fund Balance

The fund balance of the General Fund is unrestricted.



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

Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation Defiance County 500 West Second Street, Suite 101 Defiance, Ohio 43512

To the Board of Directors:

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation, Defiance County, Ohio (the Corporation) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 22, 2023, wherein we issued an adverse opinion on the Corporation's financial statements because the Corporation did not follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 1724.05.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Corporation's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Corporation's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation'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 Corporation'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation
Defiance County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Corporation'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 financial statements. 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-001.

Corporation's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Corporation's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The Corporation's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 Corporation'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 Corporation's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

November 22, 2023

DEFIANCE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION DEFIANCE COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2022-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 1724.05 provides, in part, that the Corporation shall prepare an annual financial report according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and shall be filed with the auditor of state within one hundred twenty days following the last day of the Corporation's fiscal year.

The Corporation prepared financial statements in accordance with standards established by the Auditor of State for governmental entities that are not required to prepare reports in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This basis of accounting is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the Corporation's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the Corporation. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the Corporation should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response:

The Defiance County Land Reutilization Corporation Board believes reporting on a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) is more cost efficient and does not present a higher risk for the Corporation's assets. The Board reviews the decision to prepare the financial statements on the cash basis of accounting on an annual basis.

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DEFIANCE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION

DEFIANCE 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 12/7/2023

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