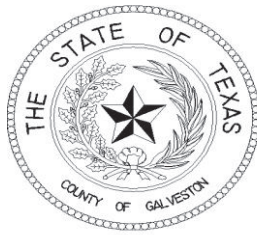


GALVESTON COUNTY



Office of County Auditor

Randall Rice CPA CISA CIO, County Auditor
Madeline Walker CPA CFE, First Assistant County Auditor

P.O. Box 1418, Galveston, Texas 77553

(409) 770-5304

722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

November 12, 2024

Honorable Mark A. Henry, County Judge, and
Members of the Commissioners Court
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Honorable Mark A. Henry and Members of the Court:

Attached to be received and filed is the internal audit report of the FY2024 Property Tax Refunds Review that covered the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Also attached is the response letter from Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson, dated October 28, 2024.

Sincerely,

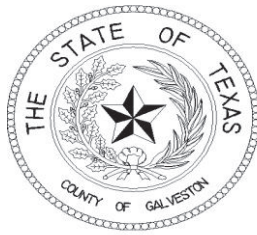
Randall Rice CPA

Randall Rice CPA
County Auditor

cc: Honorable Cheryl E. Johnson

Attachment: FY2024 Property Tax Refunds Review Report
Response Letter, Tax Assessor-Collector Cheryl E. Johnson

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722 Moody Ave 4th Floor, Galveston, TX 77550

October 21, 2024

To: Honorable Cheryl Johnson
Tax Assessor-Collector

From: Randall Rice
Galveston County Auditor

Re: FY2024 Property Tax Refunds Review

The Galveston County Auditor's Office is required by statute to review property tax refunds. Internal Audit reviews refunds on a quarterly basis after refunds have been issued. We performed testing on a judgmental sample of the refunds submitted.

Our testing included verifying the accuracy of the calculated refund amount as well as ensuring the refund is being issued to the correct payee at the proper payee address. The reviews performed by both the Tax Office and the Auditor's Office are critical to preventing/detecting fraud and minimizing incorrect payments to property owners. Since the review is not a detailed examination of all transactions, there is some risk that errors and fraud may not always be detected. The official retains the responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the financial information.

During the fiscal period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024, our office reviewed refunds consisting of 8,132 checks totaling \$12,143,386.14. There were 5,967 refunds totaling \$8,012,970.30 issued in the prior year. Accordingly, there has been a 36.28% (2,165) increase in the number of refunds issued and a 51.55% (\$4,130,415.84) increase in the dollar amount of refunds issued.

Of the refunds reviewed by Internal Audit, no exceptions were found. The Tax Office staff continues to follow established processing procedures regarding property tax refunds.

We wish to thank Cheryl Johnson and her staff for their cooperation and assistance.

cc: Madeline Walker CPA CFE, First Assistant County Auditor



Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC, CTOP
Galveston County Tax Assessor/Collector
722 Moody, Galveston, Texas 77550
cheryl.e.johnson@co.galveston.tx.us
1-409-766-2260



October 28, 2024

Mr. Randall Rice, CPA, CISA, CIO
Galveston County Auditor
722 Moody Avenue
Galveston, Texas 77550

Re: FY 2024 Property Tax Refunds Review

Dear Mr. Rice:

I am in receipt of the above referenced audit and continue to be pleased that no exceptions or findings were found, advancing our 15+ years of this result.

Our successes in the County Tax Office would not have been possible without a great team in the Property Tax Department adhering to policy as well as focusing on performance of daily, monthly and quarterly internal audits. Contributing to our successes through the years is the assistance and high level of expertise provided by your team – expertise that is greatly appreciated. Our partnership has resulted in improved accountability within the Galveston County Tax Office with the property owners and government partners beneficiaries of our combined effort.

Please extend my appreciation to other members of your team who assisted with this audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl E. Johnson".

Cheryl E. Johnson

cc: Tristan Belk, PCC, Chief Deputy Property Tax & Support Services
Celeste McGilberry, Internal Auditor, Galveston County Auditor's Office
Lori McWhirter, Internal Auditor, Galveston County Auditor's Office