

FINANCIAL SECTION



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Charleston County Council
County of Charleston, South Carolina

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, other than the financial statements of the aggregate discretely presented component units, and the budgetary comparison schedule of the general fund, of the County of Charleston, South Carolina (the "County"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the financial statements of each of the County's non-major governmental, enterprise, internal service, and agency funds, and the respective budgetary comparison schedules for the special revenue funds, presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining financial statements and schedules, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the discretely presented component units. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the discretely presented component units, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors. We conducted our audit in accordance with 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the County's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 County's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, based upon our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the budgetary comparison schedule for the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each non-major governmental, enterprise, internal service, and agency fund of the County as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparisons for the special revenue funds, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note I.F.13 to the financial statements, the County has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27* and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*. These two GASB statements required that the County record its share of the State of South Carolina's net pension liability and related deferred inflows and outflows of resources. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We and the other auditors have applied

certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory and Statistical Sections is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The victim notification schedule of fines, assessments, and surcharges collected on page 162 as well as the schedules of capital assets used in the operation of governmental funds on pages 182 and 183 are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the victim notification schedule of fines, assessments, and surcharges collected as well as the schedules of capital assets used in the operation of governmental funds are fairly stated, in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The information identified in the table of contents as the Introductory and Statistical Sections has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 18, 2016, on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Scott and Company LLC

Columbia, South Carolina
January 18, 2016