



Auditor of Public Accounts
Mike Harmon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Harmon Releases Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement of Mercer County
Sheriff's Office**

FRANKFORT, Ky. – State Auditor Mike Harmon today released the 2022 agreed-upon procedures engagement of Mercer County Sheriff Ernie Keltz. State law requires the auditor to annually audit the accounts of each county sheriff. In compliance with this law, the auditor issues two sheriff's reports each year: one reporting on the audit of the sheriff's tax account, and the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

In 2018 the Kentucky General Assembly, following a recommendation by the State Auditor, passed legislation that allows county sheriffs and clerks that met certain criteria to apply for an Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP) engagement in lieu of an audit of their fee account. The intent of the change, which became effective in July 2018, was to reduce audit costs for sheriffs and clerks that have a history of clean audits, while still maintaining an appropriate level of accountability.

The Mercer County Sheriff applied for and received approval from the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to obtain an AUP engagement for calendar year 2022 in accordance with KRS 43.070(1)(c). AUP reports present the procedures performed and the results of those procedures, called findings. Auditors performed the procedures, which were agreed to by the Mercer County Sheriff, on receipts and disbursements, excess fees, recordkeeping, and leases, contracts, and liabilities for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

The following exceptions were identified during the AUP engagement:

- **The sheriff performed monthly bank reconciliations on all accounts except the payroll account. The December 31, 2022 bank reconciliations were reformed and were accurate except for the payroll account.**

Sheriff's Response: The official did not provide a response.

- **The selected disbursements agreed to paid invoices or other supporting documentation and cancelled checks. Disbursements were for official business. Credit card disbursements were not all for official business. \$291 in credit card purchases had no receipt or were for a personal purchase or were for service fees. State advancement was repaid.**

Sheriff's Response: The official did not provide a response.

- **The sheriff's agreements and contract payments did agree to actual payments and the services received were appropriate, for official business, and properly authorized. Liabilities requiring disclosure were not disclosed properly on the fourth quarter financial statement.**

Sheriff's Response: The official did not provide a response.

The sheriff's responsibilities include collecting property taxes, providing law enforcement and performing services for the county fiscal court and courts of justice. The sheriff's office is funded through statutory commissions and fees collected in conjunction with these duties.

The agreed-upon procedures report can be found on the [auditor's website](#).

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