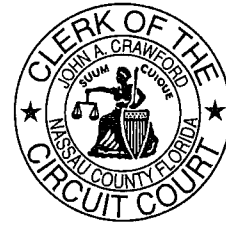




John A. Crawford
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Nassau County



September 18, 2007

The Honorable Jim B. Higginbotham, Chairman
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 1010
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

Dear Chairman Higginbotham and Commissioners:

This past Monday, 09/10/07, the county attorney made you aware of a particular yet unresolved audit finding in the Board of County Commissioners' audit report related to the clerk's office performing county commission human resources functions on your behalf. There are other critical audit findings for which resolutions continue to be pursued, however, this particular audit finding requires that you actually transfer a responsibility from the clerk's payroll department to the Board's human resources department where these functions should normally be performed.

The Independent Auditors' report describes the condition; "It appears certain functions which are typically associated with the human resources functions, such as setting up new employees in the payroll system or modifying the rates of pay of employees are instead performed by the Clerk's office employees who also perform the payroll function." The report continues describing the effect of this condition; "This appears to be a separation of duties issue as some of these human resources functions are incompatible with the payroll function. An insufficient segregation of incompatible duties increases the risk of error or fraudulent activity." (Emphasis added.)

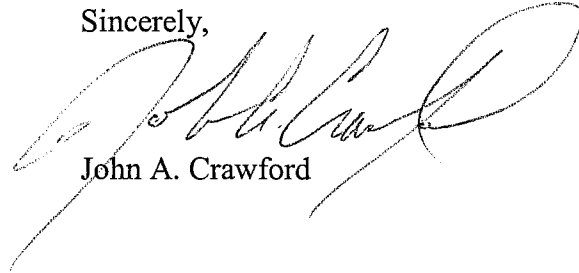
As elected officers charged with protecting public funds, you must remain keenly aware, as am I, of what happens when adequate internal control mechanisms and checks and balances processes are not employed where the possibility of fraud and error exists. Please be reminded that over one million dollars was stolen from the taxpayers of Nassau County and the citizens of Florida due to such controls and checks and balances not being required and adhered to under the previous clerk's administration.

I request that you reconsider the opportunity to repair this audit finding in an appropriate manner. This audit finding will continue to appear in future audits of the Board of County Commissioners until remedied. This audit finding must be addressed. As a courtesy to you, I felt it appropriate to give you the opportunity to address it within your own human resources department as opposed to my solving it. Please understand

The Honorable Jim B. Higginbotham, Chairman
September 18, 2007
Page 2

that it is my duty to make sure that the gravity of this issue is conveyed to you. Your attention to this audit condition is greatly appreciated and its credible resolution will serve to build continued public confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John A. Crawford

jgb