



HUGH NGUYEN
CLERK-RECORDER

PROPERTY RECORDS
BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS
MARRIAGE LICENSES/RECORDS
PASSPORTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES
NOTARY REGISTRATION
ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Oct. 11, 2013

Clerk-Recorder Responds to Internal Audit Recommendations

The County's Internal Audit Department has released an audit report on the operations of the Clerk-Recorder Department. The report covers a period of time prior to my appointment as Clerk-Recorder in April 2013. The report identifies twelve (12) Critical Control Weaknesses, three (3) Significant Control Weaknesses and four (4) Control Findings in the Clerk-Recorder Department.

This audit was requested by the Audit Oversight Committee due to questions regarding operations and activities during Fiscal Years 2010-11 and 2011-12 when the previous Clerk-Recorder was in office. All of the Internal Audit findings cited in the report reflect issues and conditions which existed prior to my appointment. However, since my appointment six months ago, I have worked closely with Internal Audit and County Counsel to correct and improve many of the issues identified in the report. Together we addressed the lack of accountability and financial controls in the Department. I also reorganized the Department's management structure, added staff with strong financial skills, and I implemented needed policies and procedures. In the near future, I will issue a response to Internal Auditor Peter Hughes and the Board of Supervisors addressing each Internal Audit recommendation, as well as other changes I have made to improve the Department's financial controls.

I want to thank Internal Audit Director Peter Hughes and his team as well as County Counsel Nick Chrisos and his staff for all their help with reviewing Department activities, implementing corrective measures, and developing new policies and procedures. In addition, I am also taking other steps to improve the Department's operational efficiency and service levels.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Supervisors shares in the elected responsibilities and financial accountability of the entire County. To help with the financial oversight responsibilities, the Board of Supervisors created the OC Internal Audit Department (IAD) to conduct reviews and audits of County operations. The IAD reports directly to the Board of Supervisors, which ensures autonomy and complete operational independence. The IAD applies professional auditing standards to department reviews and audits, and provides reports that are informative, accurate, and objective. The IAD has proven to operate with integrity, objectivity and independence providing the Board of Supervisors (and the public) with credible and independent financial reviews. Dr. Peter Hughes is the Director of the County's Internal Audit Department, and he can be reached at (714) 834-5475.

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