



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
TAX COLLECTOR**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*As of and for the Year Ended September 30, 2017*

*And Reports of Independent Auditor*

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
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## Report of Independent Auditor

To the Honorable Doug Belden,  
Tax Collector  
Hillsborough County, Florida

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hillsborough County, Florida Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, 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 the 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 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 from 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 entity'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 entity'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, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Tax Collector as of September 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Emphasis of Matter

#### *Basis of Presentation*

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with *Rules of the Auditor General* of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each fund of Hillsborough County, Florida that is attributable to the Tax Collector. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Hillsborough County, Florida as of September 30, 2017, and the changes in its financial position for the fiscal year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

### *Change in Accounting Principle*

As discussed in Note 7 to the financial statements, the Tax Collector adopted the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, during the year ended September 30, 2017. Our opinions are 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 budgetary comparison information and schedule of changes in the Tax Collector's total OPEB liability and related ratios, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We 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 financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the 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.

#### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Tax Collector's basic financial statements. The combining financial statements listed in the Other Financial Information section of the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining financial statements 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 combining financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 18, 2017, on our consideration of the Tax Collector'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 the 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 Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Tampa, Florida  
December 18, 2017

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
BALANCE SHEET –  
GENERAL FUND

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	25,612,664
Accounts receivable		4,942
Prepaid items		7,000
Due from other governmental agencies		31,458
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,656,063</b>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$	366,808
Wages and benefits payable		360,452
Due to Board of County Commissioners		23,089,369
Due to other governmental agencies		1,413,434
Unearned business tax collection fees		426,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>25,656,063</b>

Fund balance

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balances**

		-
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,656,063</b>

# HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

## TAX COLLECTOR

### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – GENERAL FUND

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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Revenues:

Charges for services:

Board of County Commissioners	\$	27,581,530
Other governmental agencies		4,471,900
Taxpayers		13,605,177
Interest earnings		170,758
Miscellaneous		351,544
Total Revenues		<u>46,180,909</u>

Expenditures:

General government:

Personal services		23,710,700
Operating expenditures		6,501,956
Capital outlay		1,371,851
Distribution of excess revenues to other governmental agencies		1,413,434
Total Expenditures		<u>32,997,941</u>

Excess of revenues over expenditures 13,182,968

Other Financing Uses:

Distribution of excess revenues to the Board of County Commissioners (13,182,968)

Net change in fund balance	-
Fund balance, beginning of year	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES –  
AGENCY FUNDS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	12,513,785
Accounts receivable		1,818,350
		<hr/>
Total Assets	\$	14,332,135
		<hr/> <hr/>

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	\$	2,638,057
Deposits		194,976
Due to other governmental agencies		11,499,102
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities	\$	14,332,135
		<hr/> <hr/>

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 1—Summary of significant accounting policies**

The following is a summary of the significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements.

*Financial Reporting Entity* – The Hillsborough County, Florida, Tax Collector (the “Tax Collector”) is a separate constitutional officer as provided by Article VIII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Florida, and the Home Rule Chapter adopted by the people of Hillsborough County, Florida (the “County”). For financial reporting purposes, the Tax Collector is deemed to be a part of the primary government of the County and, therefore, is included as such in the Hillsborough County, Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

*Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation* – These financial statements include the General Fund and Agency Funds of the Tax Collector’s office. The accompanying financial statements were prepared for purposes of complying with Section 218.39(2), *Florida Statutes*, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General-Local Governmental Entity Audits* (the “Rules”), which require the Tax Collector to only present fund financial statements.

The Tax Collector utilizes the following fund types:

- *The General Fund*, a major governmental fund, is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the Tax Collector that are not required either legally or by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to be accounted for in another fund.
- *The Agency Funds*, fiduciary funds, are custodial in nature and do not involve measurement of results of operations (assets equal liabilities). The Agency Funds are used (1) to account for collection of registrations and titles for vehicles, vessels, and mobile homes and driver license transactions and the subsequent distribution of those receipts to the State of Florida and (2) to account for the collection and distribution of property and tangible personal property taxes, business taxes, tourist development taxes, birth certificates, hunting and fishing licenses, and concealed weapons licenses.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is followed by the General Fund. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred, except for accumulated sick and vacation pay, which are not recorded until paid.

Charges for services on the collection of property taxes are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year for which taxes are levied, provided they are collected within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Certain other miscellaneous revenues are recorded as revenues when received because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 1—Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

*Governmental Fund Balances* – In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”) Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, fund balances are classified either as nonspendable or as spendable. Spendable fund balances are further classified in a hierarchy based on the extent to which there are external and internal constraints on the spending of these fund balances. These classifications are described as follows:

*Nonspendable* fund balances include amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. As of September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector had no nonspendable balances.

*Spendable* fund balances are classified based on a hierarchy of the County's ability to control the spending of these fund balances.

*Restricted* fund balances are fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. As of September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector had no restricted fund balances.

*Committed* fund balances are fund balances constrained for specific purposes imposed by the Tax Collector's formal action of the highest level of decision making authority. As of September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector had no committed fund balances.

*Assigned* fund balances are fund balances intended to be used for specific purposes, but which are neither restricted nor committed. As of September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector had no assigned fund balances.

*Unassigned* fund balances represent the residual fund balance within the General Fund, which has not been assigned to other funds and has not been restricted, committed, or assigned. In funds other than the General Fund, unassigned fund balances are limited to negative residual balances. As of September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector had no unassigned fund balances.

The Tax Collector considers restricted funds to be used first when an expenditure is incurred and both restricted and unrestricted funds are available, followed by committed, assigned, and then unassigned as applicable.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 1—Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

*Property Tax Collections* – Chapter 197, *Florida Statutes*, governs property tax collections.

- *Current Taxes* – All property taxes become due and payable on November 1 and are delinquent on April 1 of the following year. Discounts of 4%, 3%, 2%, and 1% are allowed for early payment in November through February, respectively.
- *Unpaid Taxes-Sale of Tax Certificates* – The Tax Collector advertises, as required by *Florida Statutes*, then sells tax certificates on all real property for unpaid taxes. Certificates not purchased are issued to the County. Any person owning real property upon which a tax certificate has been sold may redeem the real property by paying the Tax Collector the face amount of the tax certificate plus interest and other costs.
- *Tax Deeds* – The owner of a tax certificate may, after two years when the taxes have been delinquent (after April 1), file an application for tax deed sale. The County, as a certificate owner, is required to exercise similar procedures two years after taxes have been due (November 1). Tax deeds are issued to the highest bidder for the property, which is sold at public auction. The Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County administers these sales.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents* – Cash and cash equivalents consist of bank checking and savings accounts, carried at cost, and an investment in State Board of Administration's ("SBA") Florida PRIME, which is presented at amortized cost.

*Prepaid Items* – The cost of prepaid items is capitalized as an asset and recognition of the expenditure is deferred until the period the prepaid items are actually consumed or used, which is in accordance with the consumption method.

*Compensated Absences* – In accordance with GASB Statement No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, the Tax Collector determines the liability for compensated absences, as well as certain other salary-related costs associated with the payment of compensated absences that are recorded and reported by the County in its basic financial statements. Vacation leave is accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned by the employees. Sick leave is accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned by the employees, but only to the extent that it is probable that the Tax Collector will compensate the employees for the benefits through cash payments at termination or retirement.

The Tax Collector's sick time payable liability consisted of two parts at September 30, 2017, resulting from Hillsborough County Civil Service Rules that state sick leave termination payments are to be made under two conditions. Compensation for employees in "Plan A" includes a sick leave payment at termination for all hours of sick time accrued up to 480 hours and half of the sick time accrued over 960 hours. A liability is recorded in the County's basic financial statements for each employee in Plan A based on the employee's hourly pay rate. Compensation for employees in "Plan B" includes a sick leave payment at termination for the employee's unused sick leave hours at February 2, 1997, with payment only for each hour of sick time accrued up to 480 hours and half of the sick time accrued over 960 hours. A liability is recorded in the County's basic financial statements for each employee who has a termination payment under Plan B. Employees hired after February 2, 1997, will not receive a sick leave payment at termination, so no sick leave liability is recorded for these employees.

The compensated absences liability also includes other salary-related costs incrementally associated with the payment of compensated absences such as the Tax Collector's share of Social Security and Medicare taxes.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 1—Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**

*Distribution of Excess Revenues* – Florida Statutes provide that the excess of the Tax Collector’s fee revenue over expenditures is to be distributed to each governmental agency in the same proportion as the fees paid by the governmental agency bear to total fee income received by the Tax Collector. The amount of undistributed excess fees at the end of the fiscal year is reported as amounts due to the Board of County Commissioners and other governmental agencies; the transfer and distribution of total excess fees are reported as other financing uses and expenditures, respectively.

*Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) Disclosures* – The Tax Collector accounts for its pension and postemployment benefits other than pensions as provided in Notes 6 and 7, respectively.

*Use of Estimates* – The preparation of financial statements requires management to make use of estimates that affect reported amounts. Actual results could differ from estimates.

*Subsequent Events* – The Tax Collector has evaluated subsequent events through December 18, 2017, in connection with the preparation of these financial statements, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**Note 2—Cash and cash equivalents**

The Tax Collector’s policy is to follow the guidelines in Section 219.075, Florida Statutes, regarding the deposit of funds received and the investment of surplus funds. Sections 219.075 and 218.415, Florida Statutes, authorize the Tax Collector to invest in the SBA pool or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act; Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) registered money market funds with the highest credit quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency; direct obligations of the United States Treasury; federal agencies and instrumentalities, or interest-bearing time deposits and savings accounts held in federal or state-chartered banks and savings and loan associations doing business in Florida, provided that any such deposits are secured by collateral as may be prescribed.

At September 30, 2017, cash and cash equivalents included \$16,912,419 of cash on hand and cash deposited in banks and \$21,304,034 invested in SBA Florida PRIME. The bank balances were \$18,134,887 for deposits. Bank deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or covered by the State of Florida collateral pool, a multiple-financial pool with the ability to assess its members for collateral shortfalls if a member institution fails.

Florida PRIME is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but nevertheless has a policy that it will, and does, operate as a qualifying external investment pool. Thus, this pool operates essentially as a money market fund. Florida PRIME has a Standard & Poor’s rating of AAAM at September 30, 2017 and is measured at amortized cost. There are currently no limitations as to the frequency of redemptions; however, Florida PRIME has the ability to impose restrictions on withdrawals should a material event occur. Detailed information on the withdrawal restrictions that may be imposed and Florida PRIME’s responsibilities should such an event occur is described in Section 218.409(8)(a), Florida Statutes.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 3—Capital assets**

The tangible and intangible personal property used by the Tax Collector is reported as capital assets in the statement of net assets as part of the basic financial statements of the County. Upon acquisition, such assets are recorded as expenditures in the General Fund and are capitalized at cost in the capital assets accounts of the County. The Tax Collector maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets used by its office.

**Note 4—Accounts payable**

Accounts payable in the General Fund are due to various vendors. Accounts payable in the agency funds are primarily tax certificates.

**Note 5—Accumulated compensated absences**

The amount of vested accumulated compensated absences payable based upon the Tax Collector's annual leave and sick leave policy is reported as a liability in the statement of net position in the County's basic financial statements. The change in accumulated compensated absences during the year ended September 30, 2017 is as follows:

Beginning balance, October 1, 2016	\$ 1,679,585
Additions	1,551,607
Deletions	(1,584,714)
Ending balance, September 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,646,478</u>

**Note 6—Retirement plan**

*Plan Description* – The Comptroller's employees participate in the Florida Retirement System ("FRS"). As provided by Chapters 121 and 112, *Florida Statutes*, the FRS provides two cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit plans administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, including the FRS Pension Plan ("Pension Plan"), and the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy ("HIS Plan"). Under Section 121.4501, *Florida Statutes*, the FRS also provides a defined contribution plan ("Investment Plan") alternative to the FRS Pension Plan, which is administered by the State Board of Administration.

As a general rule, membership in the FRS is compulsory for all employees working in a regularly established position for a state agency, county government, district school board, state university, community college, or a participating city or special district within the State of Florida. The FRS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefits are established by Chapter 121, *Florida Statutes*, and Chapter 60S, Florida Administrative Code. Amendments to the law can be made only by an act of the Florida Legislature.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**Note 6—Retirement plan (continued)**

Benefits under the Pension Plan are computed on the basis of age, average final compensation, and service credit. For Pension Plan members enrolled before July 1, 2011, Regular class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service, or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 1.6% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary, for each year of credited service. Vested members with less than 30 years of service may retire before age 62 and receive reduced retirement benefits. Senior Management Service class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 2.0% of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary for each year of credited service. Elected Officers' class members who retire at or after age 62 with at least six years of credited service or 30 years of service regardless of age are entitled to a retirement benefit payable monthly for life, equal to 3.0% (3.33% for judges and justices) of their final average compensation based on the five highest years of salary for each year of credited service. Substantial changes were made to the Pension Plan during fiscal year 2011, affecting new members enrolled on or after July 1, 2011 by extending the vesting requirement to eight years of credited service and increasing normal retirement to age 65 or 33 years of service regardless of age. Also, the final average compensation for these members is based on the eight highest years of salary.

*Funding Policy* – All enrolled members of the FRS Pension Plan are required to contribute 3.0% of their salary to the FRS. In addition to member contributions, governmental employers are required to make contributions to the FRS based on state-wide contribution rates. The employer contribution rates by job class, during the following periods, were as follows:

<b>Employee Class or Plan</b>	<b>Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>	
	<b>October 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</b>	<b>September 30, 2017</b>
Regular	7.52%	7.92%
Elected Officers	42.47%	45.50%
Senior Management Service	21.77%	22.71%
DROP	12.99%	13.26%

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector contributed to the plan an amount equal to 8.6% of covered payroll.

The HIS Plan provides a monthly benefit to assist retirees in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement. Eligible retirees and beneficiaries receive a monthly health insurance subsidy payment of \$5 for each year of creditable service, with a minimum payment of \$30 and a maximum payment of \$150 per month. The HIS Plan is funded by required contributions from FRS participating employees as set forth by the Florida Legislature, based on a percentage of gross compensation for all active FRS members.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 6—Retirement plan (continued)**

In addition to the above benefits, the FRS administers a Deferred Retirement Option Program (“DROP”). This program allows eligible members to defer receipt of monthly retirement benefit payments while continuing employment with a FRS employer for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate. Deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. There are no required contributions by DROP participants.

For those members who elect participation in the Investment Plan, rather than the Pension Plan, vesting occurs at one year of service. These participants receive a contribution for self-direction in an investment product with a third-party administrator selected by the State Board of Administration. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular, Elected Officers, etc.), as the FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices. Costs of administering plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.06% of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

The Tax Collector recognizes pension expenditures in an amount equal to amounts paid to the Pension Plan, the HIS Plan, and the Investment Plan, totaling approximately \$956,000, \$264,000, and \$144,000, respectively, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. The Tax Collector's payments for the Pension Plan and the Investment Plan after June 30, 2017, the measurement date used to determine the net pension liability associated with the Pension Plan and HIS Plan, amounted to approximately \$349,000. The Tax Collector is not legally required to and does not accumulate expendable available resources to liquidate the retirement obligation related to its employees. Accordingly, the net pension liability and associated deferred outflows and deferred inflows are presented on the government-wide financial statements of the County.

The State of Florida annually issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the FRS. The latest available report may be obtained by writing to the State of Florida Division of Retirement, Department of Management Services, P.O. Box 9000, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-9000. That report may be viewed on the Florida Department of Management Services website located at [www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce\\_operations/retirement/publications](http://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/publications).

**Note 7—Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”)**

*Plan Description* – The Tax Collector offers a single-employer postretirement healthcare defined benefit plan administered by the Tax Collector. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 112.0801, *Florida Statutes*, former employees and eligible dependents who retire from the Tax Collector may continue to participate in the Tax Collector's fully insured health and hospitalization plans for medical and prescription drug coverage. For the Postemployment Healthcare benefits Plan, benefit terms of the Tax Collector are established and may be amended through the Tax Collector's office. The Plan's funding policy is “pay-as-you-go” and does not use a trust.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**Note 7—Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) (continued)**

*Benefits Provided* – The Tax Collector subsidizes the premium rates paid by retirees by allowing them to participate in the plans at reduced or blended group (implicitly subsidized) premium rates for both active and retired employees. These rates provide an implicit subsidy for retirees because, on an actuarial basis, their current and future claims are expected to result in higher costs to the plan on average than those of active employees. In addition to the implicit subsidy, the Tax Collector provides a premium stipend of \$5 for each year of service, with a maximum of 30 years. The stipend is payable to retirees ages 55 to 65. Participants have to be eligible for and take medical coverage at retirement to receive the stipend. Also, retirees are required to enroll in the Federal Medicare program for primary coverage as soon as they are eligible. The number of participants within the benefit plan as of September 30, 2017 are as follows:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit paymen	15
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	-
Active employees	376
	<u>391</u>

*Implementation of New GASB Statement* – During fiscal year 2017, the Tax Collector elected to early implement GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. GASB Statement No. 75 specifies that governments must recognize their net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expense in financial statement’s prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting. For the Tax Collector, this information, including OPEB expense of \$96,080, is included in the government-wide financial statements of the County. OPEB expenditures recognized in the financial statements of the Tax Collector under the modified accrual method equals the total amount paid by the Tax Collector, amounting to \$20,285 for the year ended September 30, 2017.

The effect of the transition on the total OPEB liability presented in the County’s government-wide financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2017 is as follows:

<b>GASB 75 Transition</b>	
Net OPEB Obligation as of September 30, 2016	\$ 400,267
Increase in liability due to GASB 75 transition	696,712
Liability under GASB 75 as of October 1, 2016	<u>\$ 1,096,979</u>

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**Note 7—Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) (continued)**

*Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs* – The total OPEB liability in the September 30, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, using the entry age normal cost actuarial method, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Rate of return on invested assets	3.64%
Payroll growth rate	4.50%
General inflation rate	2.50%
Annual healthcare cost trend rate, pre-Medicare	7.31%
Annual healthcare cost trend rate, post-Medicare	8.51%

The discount rate was based on the Bond Buyer GO 20-Bond Municipal Bond Index. Mortality rates were based on aggregate 2006 base rates from the RP-2014 mortality study, projected generationally from 2006 using Scale MP-2017. The healthcare aging factors used in the September 30, 2017 valuation were based on results of normative data analyses, along with results from the 2013 Society of Actuaries sponsored study “Health Care Costs – From Birth to Death.”

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability presented on government-wide financial statements of the County are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>	
Total OPEB liability, September 30, 2016	\$ 1,096,979
Service cost	69,718
Interest cost	35,409
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experiences	(73,567)
Changes of assumptions	(24,046)
Benefit payments	(19,218)
Net Changes	<u>(11,704)</u>
Total OPEB liability, September 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,085,275</u>

Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.50 percent as of September 30, 2016 under GASB 45 to 3.06 percent under GASB 75, and to 3.64 percent as of September 30, 2017. Also included within changes of assumptions and other inputs is a change in the mortality assumption from the aggregate 2006 base rates from the RP-2014 mortality study projected generationally from 2006 using Scale MP-2015 to the aggregate 2006 base rates from the RP-2014 mortality study projected generationally from 2006 using Scale MP-2017, and a reduction in the assumption of Medicare eligible continuation from 10 percent to 5 percent.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**Note 7—Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) (continued)**

*Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Tax Collector, as well as what the Tax Collector’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point-lower (2.64 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.64 percent) than the current discount rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Total OPEB liability	\$ 1,016,750	\$ 1,085,275	\$ 1,163,475

*Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates* – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Tax Collector, as well as what the Tax Collector’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare costs trend rates rate that is 1-percentage-point-lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the healthcare cost trend rates:

	<u>1% Decrease</u> <u>(2.64%)</u>	<u>Current Rate</u> <u>(3.64%)</u>	<u>1% Increase</u> <u>(4.64%)</u>
Total OPEB liability	\$ 1,125,673	\$ 1,085,275	\$ 1,040,985

*OPEB Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB* – At September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector’s deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB reported on the County’s government-wide financial statements are from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred</u> <u>Outflows</u>	<u>Deferred</u> <u>Inflows</u>
Difference between actual and expected experience	\$ -	\$ (66,749)
Changes of Assumptions or other inputs	-	(21,817)
Total	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (88,566)</u>

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 7—Other Postemployment Benefits (“OPEB”) (continued)**

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense on the County’s government-wide financial statements as follows:

**Year Ending September 30,**

2018	\$	(9,047)
2019		(9,047)
2020		(9,047)
2021		(9,047)
2022		(9,047)
Thereafter		(43,331)

The Tax Collector does not issue a stand-alone financial statement for its OPEB plan.

**Note 8—Commitments**

The Tax Collector pays rent under operating leases for its various collection offices. These leases are cancelable if funds are not appropriated for their purpose and are not enforceable against a new administration with the exception of an operating lease agreement at one collection office. Rental expenditures under operating leases for the year ended September 30, 2017 amounted to \$635,164. The future minimum lease payments for the Tax Collector under operating leases as of September 30, 2017 are as follows:

**Year Ending September 30,**

2018	\$	528,210
2019		206,184
2020		206,184
2021		206,184
2022		68,844
2023-2027		344,220
2028-2031		45,896
	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,605,722</u>

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**TAX COLLECTOR**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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**Note 8—Commitments (continued)**

*Licensing and Maintenance Agreement* – On February 8, 2013, the Tax Collector entered into a contract with a third-party vendor for the licensing, design, and development of a fully integrated system for the billing, collection and administration of taxes. The Tax Collector went live with the new system on July 1, 2014. As part of the contract, the Tax Collector entered into a five-year Licensing and Maintenance Agreement which became effective as of October 1, 2014. Under the terms of the agreement, the Tax Collector, for the year ended September 30, 2017, paid the annual payment of \$647,149. The agreement provides for annual incremental increases of 3% each year, on the maintenance agreement anniversary date.

*Building Construction* – On June 26, 2017, the Tax Collector entered into a contract with a third-party service provider to design and construct a building to be used in operations. The total cost of this project is expected to be approximately \$3,200,000, which is expected to be completed June 2018. As of September 30, 2017, \$726,907 has been expended toward this project.

**Note 9—Risk management**

The County has established various self-insurance funds, in which the Tax Collector participates. These funds are accounted for as internal service funds in the basic financial statements of the County. Workers' compensation claims exceeding \$650,000 per claim are covered with specific excess insurance for the life of the claim. The County is also self-insured under sovereign immunity up to a maximum of \$200,000 per person/\$300,000 per occurrence for claims against the County involving negligence, including automobile and general liability. Negligence claims in excess of the statutory limits set forth in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, can only be recovered through an act of the State of Florida Legislature. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage in the last year. Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in the past three years. Reserves have been established at the County for both claims that have been reported but not paid and claims incurred but not reported. During the year ended September 30, 2017, the Tax Collector paid \$112,472 to the Board of County Commissioners for insurance coverage.

**Note 10—Litigation**

The office of the Tax Collector is involved in certain litigation and claims arising from the ordinary course of operations. After considering advice from legal counsel, the Tax Collector is of the opinion that the outcome of these matters will not have a materially adverse effect on their financial position, although actual results may differ.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE –  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND**

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Charges for services:				
Board of County Commissioners	\$ 27,080,000	\$ 27,080,000	\$ 27,581,530	\$ 501,530
Other governmental agencies	4,744,000	4,744,000	4,471,900	(272,100)
Taxpayers	12,651,000	12,651,000	13,605,177	954,177
Interest income	50,000	50,000	170,758	120,758
Miscellaneous	230,000	230,000	351,544	121,544
Total Revenues	<u>44,755,000</u>	<u>44,755,000</u>	<u>46,180,909</u>	<u>1,425,909</u>
Expenditures:				
General government:				
Personnel services	24,635,350	24,485,350	23,710,700	774,650
Operating expenditures	5,892,134	6,523,554	6,501,956	21,598
Capital outlay	2,300,000	1,410,748	1,371,851	38,897
Total Expenditures	<u>32,827,484</u>	<u>32,419,652</u>	<u>31,584,507</u>	<u>835,145</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	11,927,516	12,335,348	14,596,402	2,261,054
Other Financing Uses:				
Distribution of excess revenues:				
Board of County Commissioners	(10,734,764)	(11,101,813)	(13,182,968)	(2,081,155)
Other governmental agencies	(1,192,752)	(1,233,535)	(1,413,434)	(179,899)
Total Other Financing Uses	<u>(11,927,516)</u>	<u>(12,335,348)</u>	<u>(14,596,402)</u>	<u>(2,261,054)</u>
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### NOTE TO SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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#### **Budgetary requirement**

Expenditures are controlled by appropriations in accordance with the budget requirements set forth in the *Florida Statutes*. The budgeted revenues and expenditures, reported in the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund, are required supplementary information reflecting all approved amendments.

On or before August 1 of each year, the Tax Collector submits an operating budget for the General Fund to the Florida Department of Revenue (the “Department”) and the Hillsborough County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”). The Department examines the budget and returns it to the Tax Collector with rulings thereon. The Tax Collector revises the budget as required and resubmits it to the Department for final approval. After final approval, no reductions or increases are permitted without the approval of the Department.

Budgetary control is maintained at the major object code level of the Tax Collector’s departments. Budgetary changes within the major object expenditure categories are made at the discretion of the Tax Collector. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year to the extent they have not been expended.

There is a difference between the budgetary basis of accounting and the financial statement basis of accounting for the treatment of excess fee distributions to entities outside of the County’s reporting entity. On a budgetary basis, distributions of excess fees through this fund are reported as other financing uses. For financial statement purposes, these distributions are reported as expenditures because there is a reduction in financial resources of the County.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**TAX COLLECTOR**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>	
Service cost	\$ 69,718
Interest cost	35,409
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experiences	(73,567)
Changes of assumptions	(24,046)
Benefit payments	(19,218)
	<hr/>
Net Change in total OPEB liability	(11,704)
Total OPEB liability, September 30, 2016	1,096,979
	<hr/>
Total OPEB liability, September 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,085,275</u>
	<hr/>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 15,796,697
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	6.87% *

\* The amounts presented represent the figures for the Tax Collector for the current fiscal year only, as there is not data available prior to the implementation of GASB 75.

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

### TAX COLLECTOR

#### NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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*Funding Policy* – The Plan’s funding policy is “pay-as-you-go” and does not accumulate assets within a trust to pay related benefits.

*Changes of Benefit Terms* – During the fiscal year, there were no changes of benefits provided. Amounts presented do not include changes in benefit terms prior to October 1, 2017, as data was not available under GASB 75.

*Changes of Assumptions* – Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.06% as of September 30, 2016 to 3.64% as of September 30, 2017. Also included within changes of assumptions and other inputs is a change in the mortality assumption from the aggregate 2006 base rates from the RP-2014 mortality study projected generationally from 2006 using Scale MP-2015 to the aggregate 2006 base rates from the RP-2014 mortality study projected generationally from 2006 using Scale MP-2017, and a reduction in the assumption of Medicare eligible continuation from 10 percent to 5 percent. Amounts presented do not include changes in benefit terms prior to October 1, 2017, as data was not available under GASB 75.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA****TAX COLLECTOR****COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES –  
AGENCY FUNDS***SEPTEMBER 30, 2017*

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	<b>Tax and License Fund</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Fund</b>	<b>Total All Agency Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,775,408	\$ 2,738,377	\$ 12,513,785
Accounts receivable	1,733,020	85,330	1,818,350
Total Assets	<u>\$ 11,508,428</u>	<u>\$ 2,823,707</u>	<u>\$ 14,332,135</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 2,621,900	\$ 16,157	\$ 2,638,057
Deposits	194,976	-	194,976
Due to other governmental agencies	8,691,552	2,807,550	11,499,102
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 11,508,428</u>	<u>\$ 2,823,707</u>	<u>\$ 14,332,135</u>

# HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

## TAX COLLECTOR

### COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES – AGENCY FUNDS

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

	Balance <u>October 1, 2016</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	Balance <u>September 30, 2017</u>
<b>TAX AND LICENSE FUND</b>				
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,241,955	\$ 2,943,498,372	\$ 2,942,964,919	\$ 9,775,408
Accounts receivable	1,434,560	368,255,353	367,956,893	1,733,020
Total Assets	<u>\$ 10,676,515</u>	<u>\$ 3,311,753,725</u>	<u>\$ 3,310,921,812</u>	<u>\$ 11,508,428</u>
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 1,841,166	\$ 1,092,689,814	\$ 1,091,909,080	\$ 2,621,900
Deposits	193,386	2,805,308	2,803,718	194,976
Due to other governmental agencies	8,641,963	2,476,239,216	2,476,189,627	8,691,552
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 10,676,515</u>	<u>\$ 3,571,734,338</u>	<u>\$ 3,570,902,425</u>	<u>\$ 11,508,428</u>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FUND</b>				
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,507,076	\$ 313,160,424	\$ 312,929,123	\$ 2,738,377
Accounts receivable	43,966	195,266	153,902	85,330
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,551,042</u>	<u>\$ 313,355,690</u>	<u>\$ 313,083,025</u>	<u>\$ 2,823,707</u>
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 9,339	\$ 8,169,711	\$ 8,162,893	\$ 16,157
Due to other governmental agencies	2,541,703	192,445,527	192,179,680	2,807,550
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 2,551,042</u>	<u>\$ 200,615,238</u>	<u>\$ 200,342,573</u>	<u>\$ 2,823,707</u>
<b>TOTAL - AGENCY FUNDS</b>				
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,749,031	\$ 3,256,658,796	\$ 3,255,894,042	\$ 12,513,785
Accounts receivable	1,478,526	368,450,619	368,110,795	1,818,350
Total Assets	<u>\$ 13,227,557</u>	<u>\$ 3,625,109,415</u>	<u>\$ 3,624,004,837</u>	<u>\$ 14,332,135</u>
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 1,850,505	\$ 1,100,859,525	\$ 1,100,071,973	\$ 2,638,057
Deposits	193,386	2,805,308	2,803,718	194,976
Due to other governmental agencies	11,183,666	2,668,684,743	2,668,369,307	11,499,102
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 13,227,557</u>	<u>\$ 3,772,349,576</u>	<u>\$ 3,771,244,998</u>	<u>\$ 14,332,135</u>

## **SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**

**Report of Independent Auditor on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements  
Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

To the Honorable Doug Belden,  
Tax Collector  
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the 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, the financial statements of the major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hillsborough County, Florida Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 18, 2017, for the purpose of compliance with Section 218.39(2), *Florida Statutes*, and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General-Local Governmental Entity Audits*.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Tax Collector's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Tax Collector's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Tax Collector's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

**Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

**Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cherry Bekant LLP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tampa, Florida  
December 18, 2017

## Independent Auditor's Management Letter

To the Honorable Doug Belden,  
Tax Collector  
Hillsborough County, Florida

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the Hillsborough County, Florida Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector"), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated December 18, 2017.

### Auditor's Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*.

### Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Report of Independent Auditor on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and Report of Independent Accountant on Compliance With Local Government Investment Policies, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated December 18, 2017, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

### Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., *Rules of the Auditor General*, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. No recommendations were made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

### Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., *Rules of the Auditor General*, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity be disclosed in the management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The Tax Collector was established by Article VIII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Florida and the House Rule Chapter adopted by the people of Hillsborough County, Florida. There are no component units related to the Tax Collector.

### Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., *Rules of the Auditor General*, requires that we address in the management letter any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

### Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., *Rules of the Auditor General*, requires that we address noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such findings.

**Purpose of this Letter**

The purpose of this management letter is to communicate certain matters prescribed by Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General*. Accordingly, this management letter is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Cherry Bekant* LLP

Tampa, Florida  
December 18, 2017

**Report of Independent Accountant on Compliance With  
Local Government Investment Policies**

To the Honorable Doug Belden,  
Tax Collector  
Hillsborough County, Florida

We have examined the Hillsborough County, Florida Tax Collector's (the "Tax Collector") compliance with the local government investment policy requirements of Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, during the year ended September 30, 2017. Management is responsible for the Tax Collector's compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Tax Collector complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Tax Collector's compliance with the specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Tax Collector complied, in all material respects, with the local investment policy requirements of Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, during the year ended September 30, 2017.

The purpose of this report is to comply with the audit requirements of Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, and *Rules of the Auditor General*.



Tampa, Florida  
December 18, 2017