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HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

To: Sheriff Austin Garrett

From: Jenneth Randall, County Auditor 

Date: December 20, 2022

Subject: Sheriff's Department Drug Burn on November 22, 2022

On November 21st and 22nd of 2022, we conducted an audit of the drugs maintained in the Sheriff's Department drug vault at the Sheriff's Annex. The purpose of our audit was to verify that all drugs scheduled for destruction by the Hamilton County Criminal Court order were on hand and adequately identified for destruction.

Access to the confiscated drugs held in the drug vault is limited to the Sheriff's drug vault custodians. According to the "Sheriff's Drug Destruction Report," the drugs designated for destruction included 1,814 (one court order of 459 items and a second court order of 1,355 items) of previously seized drug contraband.

During our audit, we agreed with each barcoded envelope containing seized contraband to the destruction list approved by order of the Criminal Court. We reviewed all the envelopes for examination and agreement to the list and found no exceptions.

Our procedures relative to the drug burn included:

- Agreement of all evidence envelopes to the listing of drugs approved by the Criminal Court for destruction;
- Review of evidence envelopes and confirm that the drugs held in the envelopes agreed to the Sheriff's record of drugs confiscated per the lab report and/or the initial arrest report;

- Verification that all drugs approved for destruction were placed correctly into boxes and bags for destruction and sealed with evidence tape; and
- Visual observation of the destruction of all sealed boxes on November 22, 2022.

All drugs approved by the court order for destruction were adequately accounted for and destroyed on November 22, 2022.

We appreciate the help of the drug vault custodians in assisting us during the Sheriff's drug destruction process. If you need further assistance, please call Chris McCollough, Assistant County Auditor, at 209-6212 or me at 209-6210.

Staff Assigned to Audit:

Phil Edwards
Austin Durrall

cc: Weston Wamp, County Mayor
Claire McVay, Chief of Staff
Chip Baker, Chairman Hamilton County Commissioners
Hamilton County Commissioners
Captain Mark Hooper, Sheriff's Department
Heather Crow, Sheriff's Department-Property & Evidence Supervisor