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COUNTY MAYOR



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COUNTY AUDITOR

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HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

To: Sheriff Austin Garrett

From: Chris McCollough, County Auditor

Date: November 20, 2023

Subject: Sheriff's Office Drug Burn on November 7, 2023

On November 6, 2023, we audited the drugs maintained in the Sheriff's Office drug vault located at the Sheriff's Annex. Our audit aimed to verify that all drugs scheduled for destruction by the Hamilton County Criminal Court order were on hand and identified adequately for destruction.

Access to the confiscated drugs held in the drug vault is limited to the Sheriff's custodians. According to the Sheriff's Drug Destruction Report, the drugs designated for destruction included 873 items of drug "contraband previously seized".

During our audit, we reconciled each barcoded envelope containing "seized contraband" to the destruction list approved by order of Criminal Court. We reviewed all of the envelopes for examination and agreement to the list.

Our procedures relative to the drug burn included:

- Agreed all evidence envelopes to the listing of drugs approved by the Criminal Court for destruction;
- Reviewing evidence envelopes for test and verified 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;

- Verified that all drugs approved for destruction were properly placed into boxes and bags for destruction and sealed with evidence tape; and
- Visually observed the destruction of all sealed boxes on November 7, 2023.

In our opinion, all drugs approved by court order for destruction were properly accounted for and destroyed on November 7, 2023 with one exception. A twelve gram bag of marijuana was part of the court order for destruction, but it was not located. The item had a value of approximately fourteen (14) dollars and is immaterial. However, it is being turned over to internal affairs for investigation.

We appreciate the help of the Sheriff's Office custodians in assisting us during the drug destruction process. If you need further assistance or questions, please call me at 209-6212.

Staff Assigned to Audit

Phil Edwards

Roger Kincer

Cc: Weston Wamp, County Mayor
Clair McVay, Chief of Staff
Jeff Eversole, Chairman Hamilton County Commissioners
Hamilton County Commissioners
Captain Mark Hooper, Sheriff's Department
Heather Crow, Sheriff's Department – Property & Evidence Supervisor