

STATE OFFICE of VICTIM
ASSISTANCE

Larry Barker, Ph.D., Director
State Office of Victim Assistance
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 401
Columbia, SC 29201
803.734.1900
803.734.1708 fax

June 13, 2016

Sheriff R.A. Strickland
Colleton County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Box 433
Walterboro, SC 29488

Dear Sheriff Strickland:

Thank you so much for submitting a response letter regarding the Programmatic Review and Financial Audit of the Colleton County Victim Assistance Program dated May 25, 2016. As it relates to your concerns regarding when you received the audit, please note that the original audit report was mailed to you on May 25, 2016. We copied the County Administrator and Chief Financial Officer on the audit report and mailed them a copy of the report as well. As far as emailing the report, I am not sure how this report would have been emailed to you unless those who received a copy scanned and emailed it to you. However; during the audit, we met with the Victim Advocate, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Controller, Treasurer, County Administrator and you and informed all of you that the report would be mailed and the county would have 5 business days to respond. I am sorry that you received your copy of the report on June 1st. However; if I am not mistaken, we are still within our timeframe for the county to respond regarding any concerns involved with the audit.

You have stated you are working together with the County Administrator, Financial Director, Treasurer and Victim Advocate to address all of the recommendations noted in the audit report conducted on May 25, 2016. We certainly appreciate you working together to resolve any issues and or errors noted in the report. When we return for the 90 Day Follow-up audit, we will review all recommendations noted in the initial report and send you the original audit and ensure the County Administrator, Financial Director, Treasurer and Victim Advocate receive a copy of the follow up report as well. You may feel free to forward to any other relevant party.



Page 2

You mentioned that it appears that most of the violations were prior to your tenure as Sheriff. While this may be correct, in our auditing of the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment funds, we must conduct each audit with the understanding that it is not about the individual in office at the time of the violation(s) but rather the position in which the person holds and their responsibility of the funds to ensure that they are not used on unauthorized purchases. The county officials that are in place are responsible for the accountability of the funds and ensuring they are used in accordance with State law and approved guidelines. It is the responsibility of each county and municipality to ensure new officials are made aware of all noted concerns regarding these funds since it is impossible for our office to know when there is turnover in the counties and municipalities across the state.

Should you have any further concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 734-0444 or Ms. Richelle Copeland at (803) 734-4137.

Sincerely,



Larry Barker, Ph. D.
Director

Cc: Kevin Griffin, County Administrator
Dennis Averkin, Chief Financial Officer

