

**STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS**  
**302 West Washington Street**  
**Room E418**  
**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769**

AUDIT REPORT  
OF

CITY COURT  
CITY OF HAMMOND  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



**FILED**  
09/14/2011



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CITY OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Judge	Jeffrey Harkin	01-01-08 to 12-31-11
Mayor	Thomas M. McDermott, Jr.	01-01-08 to 12-31-11
City Controller	Robert Lendi, CPA	01-01-10 to 12-31-11
President of the Common Council	Anthony Higgs	01-01-10 to 12-31-11



**STATE OF INDIANA**  
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TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND

We have audited the records of the City Court for the period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, and certify that the records and accountability for cash and other assets are satisfactory to the best of our knowledge and belief, except as stated in the Audit Result and Comment. The financial transactions of this office are reflected in the Annual Report of the City of Hammond for the year 2010.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

May 10, 2011

CITY COURT  
CITY OF HAMMOND  
AUDIT RESULT AND COMMENT

TRAFFIC SCHOOL

The City Judge orders defendants to attend and complete traffic school. The traffic school approved by the City Judge is the Northwest Indiana Traffic School. On the night of the class, defendants pay \$100 to the Northwest Indiana Traffic School. The traffic school then issues a check to the City for room rental and related fees at a rate of \$60 per attendee. In 2010, the City collected \$195,760 from the traffic school which was receipted to the General Fund. Per the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, neither the Northwest Indiana Traffic School nor the fee collected has been approved by them in accordance with Indiana Code 9-30-3-16. A similar comment was reported in the prior report.

Indiana Code 9-30-3-5 states:

"As used in this chapter, "traffic offense" means a violation of a statute, an ordinance, or a regulation relating to the operation or use of motor vehicles and any violation of a statute, an ordinance, or a regulation relating to the use of streets and highways by pedestrians or by the operation of any other vehicle."

Indiana Code 9-30-3-16 states:

"(a) If a person has been found to have committed a traffic offense, the court may do the following:

- (1) Require the person to attend and satisfactorily complete a driver improvement course that has been approved by the court and the bureau or by the bureau.
- (2) Place the person on probation for up to one (1) year.
- (3) Suspend the person's driver's license for up to thirty (30) days.

(b) A driver improvement course required under subsection (a) may be financed by assessing a reasonable charge as determined by the course provider and approved by the bureau."

CITY COURT  
CITY OF HAMMOND  
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on May 12, 2011, with Jeffrey Harkin, City Judge.