

**PORTLAND  
CHILDREN'S LEVY**

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**Compliance Audit**

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**For the year ended  
June 30, 2009**



MCDONALD JACOBS

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

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To the Allocation Committee  
Portland Children's Levy  
Portland, Oregon

We have examined the Portland Children's Levy's (formerly the Portland Children's Investment Fund) compliance with laws and regulations outlined in Measure 26-33, the five year levy for the Portland Children's Investment Fund passed by voters in November 2002 (and extended in November 2008), for the year ended June 30, 2009.

Management is responsible for the Portland Children's Levy's (PCL) compliance with those requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on PCL's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence about PCL's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our examination does not provide a legal determination on PCL's compliance with specified requirements.

A summary of procedures performed, findings and recommendations is attached.

In our opinion, PCL complied, in all material respects, with the aforementioned requirements for the year ended June 30, 2009.

*McDonald Jacobs, P.C.*

January 6, 2010

*Strength in Numbers*

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**PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY  
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES PERFORMED, FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
For the year ended June 30, 2009**

**1. OVERVIEW OF PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY**

In 2002, the City of Portland voters passed Measure 26-33, which created the Portland Children's Investment Fund (the Fund). The Fund was funded through property tax assessments to provide approximately \$50 million over five years to support programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, to provide safe and constructive after-school alternatives for children, and to prevent child abuse and neglect and family violence.

The key requirements of Measure 26-33 were as follows:

Funds can only be used for:

- **Child abuse prevention and intervention**, which addresses juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse, and homeless youth.
- **Early childhood programs**, which make childcare more affordable and prepare children for success in school.
- **After-school and mentoring programs**, which promote academic achievement, reduce the number of juveniles victimized by crime, and increase graduation rates.

Accountability measures include:

- Programs funded must be cost effective and have a proven record of success (**not tested as part of this compliance audit**).
- Investment fund will be subject to annual compliance audits.
- Administrative costs cannot exceed 5% of cumulative tax revenues.

The year ended June 30, 2009 was the sixth year of the Fund as approved by voters in November 2002. The Fund was approved by voters for five more years in November 2008 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014).

There was no new property tax revenue in the year ended June 30, 2009. The only revenues to the Fund were delinquent property taxes and interest revenue.

In November 2009, the Fund changed its name to the Portland Children's Levy (PCL).

**PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY  
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES PERFORMED, FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Continued  
For the year ended June 30, 2009**

**2. PROCEDURES PERFORMED AND FINDINGS**

- a. We gained an understanding of the organizational philosophy, objectives and policies for operating PCL, as well as significant regulatory and accounting matters.
- b. We reviewed governing and other key documents including the ballot language, requests for investment (grants), grant agreements, and external contracts.
- c. Administrative Expenses - Overview  
All administrative invoices are reviewed by PCL's Fiscal and Administrative Specialist and approved by PCL's Director. Bids are obtained for expenses that will exceed \$5,000 and the contracts are approved by Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Chair of the Allocation Committee for the Fund. Once approved, administrative expenses are entered into the City's accounting system (SAP). The City's accounting department issues disbursement checks for these expenses. The checks are reviewed and mailed by the Office of the Auditor. The City's accounting system provides real-time reporting of revenue and expense.

Tests of compliance

We tested compliance, including whether administrative expenses were less than 5% of cumulative tax revenues and that administrative expenses were ordinary, necessary and approved.

Specifically:

- We examined support for selected personnel and administrative expenses incurred by PCL and compared these to reports obtained from the City's accounting system.
- We performed analytical procedures for payroll and related expenses and agreed totals for the year per PCL's records to the City's accounting system without exception.
- We noted that for expenses selected for testing, administrative disbursements were recorded in the proper period and supported by invoices and/or purchase orders.
- We noted that for expenses selected for testing, services provided over \$5,000 were supported by approved contracts.
- We noted consistency in documentation of the approval process for administrative expenses tested. We noted that these expenses were ordinary and necessary expenses.

**PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY  
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES PERFORMED, FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Continued  
For the year ended June 30, 2009**

**2. PROCEDURES PERFORMED AND FINDINGS, Continued**

- We calculated the maximum administrative expenses allowed (5% of cumulative tax revenues) and determined that PCL's administrative expenses were below this amount.

d. Grants - Overview

Grants are approved by the Allocation Committee. Once approved, PCL obtains copies of the grantee agreement, including a budget with agreed-upon amounts for annual awards. PCL staff review and approve grantee requests for advances and reimbursements after comparing grantee requests with approved budgets. The grant manager approves the expenditure and the check request is sent to the City's accounting department for processing. The Office of the Auditor reviews payment requests, prepares and mails the checks to grantees.

Tests of compliance

We randomly selected 15 grants and performed the following procedures for each grant agreement:

- We compared the grant document to the request for investment (grant).
- We reviewed the signed grant contract, noting proper approval.
- We noted approval for the grant budget.
- We noted approval for the grant advances and reimbursements.
- We compared grant reimbursements to approved budgets.
- We noted whether grantee expenses for administration agreed to the grant agreement and approved budget.
- We examined support for grant disbursements maintained by PCL.
- We examined the files to determine if progress reports and other documents required to be received by PCL had been received.

We found no discrepancies in the documents we examined.

**3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Internal Controls

We gained an understanding of internal controls, including those over recording grant payments, grantee reporting, recordkeeping over grants, approval of disbursements to grantees, administrative budgeting, and reimbursement of administrative expenses, grantee reporting, and reimbursement.

**PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY  
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES PERFORMED, FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Continued  
For the year ended June 30, 2009**

**3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Continued**

The current system for processing payments appears to provide adequate control to ensure that disbursements are authorized and allowable. Overall, we found grant files, accounting records, and supporting documentation complete and readily available for examination. Also, having PCL's payroll, administrative, and grant disbursements processed by other City Departments provides segregation of duties and controls that would otherwise be difficult to institute in a small organization.

PCL has established internal controls based on all granting activity being processed and monitored by PCL staff. The current policies and procedures in place address the entire granting process from investment through monitoring. PCL staff have developed forms and worksheets to support the procedures and to reconcile grant activity on an ongoing basis. We noted that for the files examined, each grantee's activity appears to be up-to-date and in agreement with the approved investments and budgets.

We are pleased to report that we have no new recommendations.

**4. DOCUMENTS AUDITED**

The following documents were examined as part of the compliance audit:

General:

- Ballot Language for the Children's Initiative
- Internal Control memo prepared by PCL staff
- PCL Grant Accounting Procedures document
- City of Portland SAP Fund 216000 Budget to Actual report for the period ended June 30, 2009.

Administrative - tests of compliance

Sample size 35 disbursements

Sample tested: \$83,025; 58% of total administrative expenses (other than payroll)

Documents examined:

- Disbursement log prepared by PCL staff
- Original invoices/purchase orders
- Contracts, where applicable

**PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY  
SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES PERFORMED, FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS, Continued  
For the year ended June 30, 2009**

**4. DOCUMENTS AUDITED, Continued**

Payroll testing:

- Internal PCL budget for the period ended June 30, 2009
- Time sheets for months of December 2008 and March 2009

Grants - test of compliance

Sample size 15 grants

Disbursements tested: \$2,050,468; 20% of total grant disbursements.

Documents examined for each grant selected:

- Request for investment/ Application
- Signed contract
- Approved budget
- Approved advances or reimbursements
- Quarterly progress reports
- Annual outcome reports, where applicable
- Submitted audited financial statements, where applicable