



NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY COMPTROLLER

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BUSINESSES DESERVE TO BE PAID ON TIME

Comptroller Auerbach Posts Vendor Payment Reports

KINGSTON, NY (March 9, 2009)...Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach released a Vendor Payment Efficiency Monitoring Summary for the months of January and February 2009 calling it "an accountability measure for my office and a tool for the departments whose claims we process."

"The important thing to understand about management reports is that they tell stories," explained the Comptroller. "The stories can herald success, raise red flags or simply indicate on-par activity," explained Auerbach, "this report demonstrates Ulster County is processing 76% of claims for payments at an 80% or better efficiency rate."

The Vendor Payment Efficiency report tracks the number of claims for payment forwarded from county departments to the Office of the Comptroller for processing and the percentage of claims paid within a 0 – 45 day window, a 46 – 60 day window, a 61 -90 day window, and 91 plus days.

The efficiency rate is derived by comparing the date of the check that pays the claim against the date that the department submitting the claim received all the information/goods/services needed from the vendor to pay the claim.

The report evidences that vendors doing business with Ulster County are paid timely. "Especially in this crisis economy," explained Auerbach, "timely receipt of payments can make a world of difference to a business' success or failure."

In January 2009, for example, 4,449 or 76% of transactions were paid within 45 days. "January can be a challenging month for processing claims given the year end cycle," explained Auerbach, "additionally, departments that generate high numbers of claims for a wide variety of purposes or claims requiring multiple sign-offs, the claims process can easily get bogged down."

"We will post this report on our website monthly," said the Comptroller, "and encourage its use as a tool for monitoring quality performance as well as identifying trouble spots that need attention." The report can be found at www.co.ulster.ny.us.

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