



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PROTECTING COUNTY FUNDS IS A HIGH PRIORITY  
Comptroller Auerbach Works to Protect Against Bank Account Fraud**

KINGSTON, NY (March 16, 2010)... Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach released a Bank Account Reconciliation report insisting that the wishes of County voters in their approval of the Ulster County Charter be fulfilled. The Charter vested responsibility with the Office of the Comptroller to reconcile the County's bank accounts which are administered by the Department of Finance.

"The Charter Commission made good sense when they empowered the Commissioner of Finance with the administration of all financial affairs," said Auerbach, "but it was pure wisdom that they segregated the account reconciliations to the Office of the Comptroller."

Auerbach's commentary, presented as a STATUS Report, demonstrates a patience with the transition to Charter government in 2009 in that it describes an interim process he developed to temporarily compensate for the challenges of realigning staff-time to fulfill the mandate.

Auerbach has also sent a joint memo to the Chairman of the Legislature and the County Executive asking them to confer on how best to resolve this matter. "I understand there are management and budgetary difficulties in realigning staff-time," explained the Comptroller, "but the separation of duties is fundamental to effective internal controls and in preventing various types of disbursement frauds."

The report also provides a glimpse into the nature of how some accounts were previously reconciled and how his directives provide a more comprehensive approach.

Prior to the Comptroller's directives that all bank accounts have written reconciliations, several account reconciliations consisted of a calculator tape showing the balance, monthly interest and total with a hand written note stating the book balance. Taking precautions a step further for 2010, the Comptroller will require a "four-column" reconciliation process be conducted on a quarterly basis.

A full copy of the report can be found at [www.co.ulster.ny.us/comptroller](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/comptroller)

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