



## COMPTROLLER ELLIOTT AUERBACH

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### COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM NEEDS TO PROTECT CASH RECEIPTS

#### Comptroller Auerbach Takes Issue With Unrecorded Use of Fares For Tolls

KINGSTON, NY (May 15, 2009)... Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach today released an audit of the Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) service for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The audit identifies that UCAT has weaknesses in its internal control procedures related to cash receipts and timely deposits of money into the designated bank depository. The audit found that periodic reconciliation of deposits and the accounting records were not being performed.

Auerbach said, "UCAT has a great reputation for the quality services it provides the public. The findings of our audit will help UCAT officials better supervise and protect their cash receipts and deposits."

The audit also found that cash vaults used to collect cash on the buses were not sequentially marked and that UCAT Driver's Daily Reports listed non-existent vault numbers between 14% - 29% of the time for tested months.

UCAT's official response to the audit explains in detail a series of corrective actions planned and many already instituted.

"While I am impressed with UCAT's ready implementation of our audit findings," said Auerbach, "I was very disappointed that information about their unrecorded use of fare cash to pay for tolls was only disclosed after the audit was completed. Complete candor and unfettered access are fundamental to government auditor's effective examination of public funds."

"Discrepancies in reporting do not indicate an inadequacy in overall controls. There were flaws in bookkeeping, bank deposits and reconciliation but the audit was free of any indication of theft, misconduct or fraud," explained the Comptroller.

. A copy of the audit will appear on the Ulster County Comptroller's web page at [www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller)

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