



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the
County Comptroller

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NEWS RELEASE

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Joint Audit of the City Abstract

Robert E. Antonacci II CPA, Onondaga County Comptroller, and Martin D. Masterpole, City of Syracuse Auditor, released their joint effort of the Audit of the City Abstract. It was the first audit where the offices worked together to audit an issue affecting City taxpayers.

"Clearly the biggest take away from this audit is the lack of transparency from this type of billing methodology. As we recommend in the audit, the City of Syracuse should account for these costs within their budget and bill their taxpayers accordingly," Mr. Antonacci stated. Mr. Masterpole added, "As we all know, the city is under fiscal stress and this audit shows this type of billing methodology circumvents the constitutional taxing limit. Continuing to use this method of charging City residents does not show the true picture of the City's fiscal condition."

Both men added, "This issue has been audited before by the Office of County Comptroller and the State Comptroller and now we must finally take action to eliminate this practice. This would be in the best interest of the City taxpayer. Interestingly enough, the actual total cost to the City taxpayer will not go up but may actually go down by eliminating the 1% collection fee received by the City and all costs will be disclosed in appropriate fashion. Adhering to the constitutional tax limits is a very important standard. Continuing the abstract method of charging city residents could make this analysis murky."

View the audit at <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/documents/FinalCityAbstractAudit4-11-14.pdf>.

Questions regarding this audit can be directed to Martin Masterpole at 448-8477 or Robert Antonacci II CPA, at 435-2130.