



Maricopa County

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To: Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

From: Michael McGee, County Auditor

Subject: Justice Courts Minimum Accounting Standards Compliance Review

Date: September 14, 2020

We reviewed nine justice courts for compliance with Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS) set forth by the Supreme Court of Arizona, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). We performed this review to assist the AOC in evaluating compliance from calendar year 2017 through 2019.¹ We issued detailed reports to each of the nine courts reviewed.

Results: The average compliance rate was 99%, a 16% improvement from the previous review.

Observation: For each of the nine courts listed below, we reviewed 50 of 55 AOC standards (5 were not applicable to current operations). The standards were developed to bring financial operations into compliance with statutes and generally accepted accounting principles.

- Agua Fria
- Downtown
- South Mountain
- Arcadia Biltmore
- Encanto
- West McDowell
- Country Meadows
- Maryvale
- White Tank

The instances of noncompliance were primarily in the following areas: (1) segregation of duties, (2) cash handling, and (3) disbursements. These exceptions increase the risk that errors and/or fraud could occur and go undetected.

This report is intended primarily for the information and use of the County Board of Supervisors, County leadership, and other County stakeholders. However, this report is a public record and its distribution is not limited. This review was approved by the Board of Supervisors and was conducted in conformance with the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Michael McGee, County Auditor, at 506-1588.

¹ The Country Meadows Justice Court was last reviewed for calendar year 2016; at that time, the court was a stand-alone, but is now associated with the Southwest Regional Court Center (SWRCC). The AOC granted an extension to complete the MAS review procedures this year in order to align the court's review schedule with other SWRCC justice courts.