



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ULSTER COUNTY COMPTROLLER
ELLIOTT AUERBACH

ELLIOTT AUERBACH
COUNTY COMPTROLLER
244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401

PHONE: 845: 340-3529
countycomptroller@co.ulster.ny.us
www.youreyesonulster.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Comptroller's Audit Highlights County's Computer Equipment Safeguards **County Department Responds to Inventory Control and Disposal Protocol**

Kingston, NY (July 28, 2015) –The Office of the Ulster County Comptroller reviewed the procedures surrounding hundreds of thousands of dollars of information technology equipment and has recommended safeguards to ensure that taxpayer's money is protected.

Findings focused on the security of the storage facility; the location and assignment of equipment; the accuracy of the inventory and the disposal process once a piece of equipment is deemed surplus.

The County review took into consideration an earlier audit by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), which found that the County did “not have full accountability over the County's computer equipment.”

The Report notes efforts on the part of the County's Department of Information Services to respond to OSC's 2010 audit findings. “We used a data mining program to analyze a random sampling of 110 pieces of equipment and physically inspected a variety of locations to determine what protocols were in place to manage these important assets,” said Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach. “While there remains room for improvement, working closely with Information Services and the Executive's Office we identified opportunities for tightening controls, and even before our fieldwork was complete, we saw positive changes by management in response to our recommendations. We have every expectation that such positive changes in protocol will continue in the response to the formal report.”

The report can be found on the Ulster County Comptroller's website at:

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller/computer-equipment-inventory-audit>

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