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Highland Township Defiance County 15772 Hill Road Defiance, Ohio 43512-8926

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

April 19, 2010

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Highland Township Defiance County 15772 Hill Road Defiance, Ohio 43512-8926

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Highland Township, Defiance County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require townships to reformat their statements. The Township

One Government Center / Suite 1420 / Toledo, OH 43604-2246 Telephone: (419) 245-2811 (800) 443-9276 Fax: (419) 245-2484 www.auditor.state.oh.us Highland Township Defiance County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Highland Township, Defiance County, as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The Township has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 19, 2010, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Mary Taylor

April 19, 2010

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Governmental Fund Types				
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$16,475	\$187,061			\$203,536
Charges for Services		11,334			11,334
Licenss, Permits, and Fees	1,324	4,450			5,774
Intergovernmental	48,629	141,727	\$55,000		245,356
Earnings on Investments	220	•	, ,	\$291	511
Miscellaneous	3,024	2,047			5,071
Total Cash Receipts	69,672	346,619	55,000	291	471,582
Cash Disbursements:					
Current:					
General Government	72,975	5,386			78,361
Public Safety		90,759			90,759
Public Works	1,768	213,816	55,000		270,584
Health		4,783			4,783
Human Services		969			969
Capital Outlay		14,894			14,894
Debt Service:					
Redemption of Principal		217,495			217,495
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		7,130			7,130
Total Cash Disbursements	74,743	555,232	55,000		684,975
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(5,071)	(208,613)		291	(213,393)
Other Financing Receipts:					
Sale of Notes		187,495			187,495
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over / (Under) Cash Disbursements	(5,071)	(21,118)		291	(25,898)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	72,512	138,383		11,727	222,622
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$67,441	\$117,265		\$12,018	\$196,724

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	Governmental Fund Types			
	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$15,205	\$183,211		\$198,416
Charges for Services		15,709		15,709
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	991	2,800		3,791
Integovernmental	77,508	145,538		223,046
Earnings on Investments	372		\$310	682
Miscellaneous	243	8,400		8,643
Total Cash Receipts	94,319	355,658	310	450,287
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	81,913	8,703		90,616
Public Safety	205	82,402		82,607
Public Works	22,650	187,030		209,680
Health		4,943		4,943
Human Services		772		772
Capital Outlay		75,600		75,600
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal		27,346		27,346
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges		8,153		8,153
Total Cash Disbursements	104,768	394,949		499,717
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(10,449)	(39,291)	310	(49,430)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	82,961	177,674	11,417	272,052
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$72,512	\$138,383	\$11,727	\$222,622

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Highland Township, Defiance County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, which is considered a public entity risk pool. Note 8 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Township values certificates of deposit at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for proceeds from specific sources (other than from private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

<u>Road and Bridge Fund</u> - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

<u>Fire District Fund</u> – The fund receives property tax money for providing fire protection and emergency medical services for the Township's residents.

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

<u>Issue II Fund</u> - The Township received a grant from the State of Ohio to repair and maintain Township roads.

4. Permanent Funds

These funds account for assets held under a trust agreement that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, are available to support the Township's programs. The Township had the following significant Permanent Funds:

<u>General Cemetery Bequest Fund</u> – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

<u>Myers Cemetery Bequest Fund</u> – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

<u>Hall Cemetery Bequest Fund</u> – This fund receives interest revenue and funds are used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve

appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2009 and 2008 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

The Township maintains a deposit pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2009	2008
Demand deposits	\$187,022	\$213,010
Certificates of Deposit	9,702	9,612
Total deposits	\$196,724	\$222,622

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2009 and 2008 follows:

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	_
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$68,772	\$69,672	\$900
Special Revenue	342,575	534,114	191,539
Capital Projects	73,000	55,000	(18,000)
Permanent	290	291	1
Total	\$484,637	\$659,077	\$174,440

2009 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$141,284	\$74,743	\$66,541
Special Revenue	480,554	555,232	(74,678)
Capital Projects	55,000	55,000	
Permanent	3,377		3,377
Total	\$680,215	\$684,975	(\$4,760)

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	_
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$72,294	\$94,319	\$22,025
Special Revenue	333,310	355,658	22,348
Permanent	280	310	30
Total	\$405,884	\$450,287	\$44,403

2008 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$155,011	\$104,768	\$50,243
Special Revenue	510,328	394,949	115,379
Permanent	3,057		3,057
Total	\$668,396	\$499,717	\$168,679

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Fire Fund – Redemption of Principal line item in the amount of \$187,495, for the year ended December 31, 2009.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

5. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

6. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note	\$157,495	4.25%

The general obligation note relates to the purchase of a new fire truck. The original loan was issued on July 2, 2004. On September 14, 2009 the Township refinanced \$187,495 for 5 years at 4.25%.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

	General
	Obligation
Year ending December 31:	Notes
2010	\$35,629
2011	35,629
2012	35,629
2013	35,629
2014	35,628
Total	\$178,144

7. Retirement System

The Township's officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

7. Retirement System (Continued)

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2009 and 2008, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2009.

8. Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. These coverage programs, referred to as Ohio Plan Risk management ("OPRM"), are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss, except OPRM retain 15% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had over 650 members as of December 31, 2008. The Township does not participate in this coverage.

In August, 2007, OGRMP formed the Ohio Plan Healthcare Consortium ("OPHC"), as authorized by Section 9.833 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OPHC was established to provide cost effective employee benefit programs for Ohio political sub-divisions and is a self-funded, group purchasing consortium that offers medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage as well as life insurance for its members. The OPHC is sold through seventeen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio. Coverage programs are developed specific to each member's healthcare needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria. Variable plan options are available to members. These plans vary primarily by deductibles, coinsurance levels, office visit co-pays and out-of pocket maximums. OPHC had 40 members as of December 31, 2008. The Government does not participate in this coverage.

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31: 2008 and 2007 (the latest information available).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008 (Continued)

8. Risk Management (Continued)

	2008	<u>2007</u>
Assets	\$10,471,114	\$11,136,455
Liabilities	(5,286,781)	(4,273,553)
Members' Equity	\$5,184,333	\$6,862,902

You can read the complete audited financial statements for The Ohio Government Risk Management Plan at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Highland Township Defiance County 15772 Hill Road Defiance, Ohio 43512-8926

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Highland Township, Defiance County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated April 19, 2010 wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the Township. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code § 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Therefore, we cannot assure that we have identified all deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider a material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal

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control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and timely corrected. We consider finding 2009-002 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2009-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated April 19, 2010.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees, and others within the Township. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

April 19, 2010

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2009-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(B), states no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated as provided in such chapter.

Total expenditures in the Fire Fund in 2009 were \$321,738 which exceeded appropriations in the Fire Fund – Principal Debt Payment line item by \$187,495 in 2009. This was caused by an audit adjustment to post the receipt and expenditure of a note rollover in 2009.

We recommend all expenditure activity be posted along with sufficient corresponding appropriations.

FINDING NUMBER 2009-002

Material Weakness

Monitoring of Financial Activity

Inaccurate posting of transactions impedes the ability of the Board to accurately assess the financial status of the Township. We noted examples such as the following in our testing:

- Lack of posting \$187,495 of receipt and expenditure activity for the rollover of debt in 2009,
- Incorrectly posting the \$55,000 of Ohio Public Works Commission grant monies spent on behalf of the Township in the Road and Bridge Fund instead of a Capital Project Fund in 2009,

As a result, the Township's financial statements did not correctly reflect the financial activity of the Township. Three audit adjustments were posted to the financial statements.

We recommend the Board adopt policies and procedures including a final review of the financial statements by the Board and Fiscal Officer to ensure errors and omissions are detected and corrected.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2008

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2007-001	ORC § 5705.42, the Township did not record the receipt and disbursement of monies paid on behalf of the Township	Yes	
2007-002	Monitoring of Financial Activity	No	Repeated as Finding 2009-002 in this report



HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP

DEFIANCE COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED MAY 6, 2010