



**MIKE HARMON**  
**AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

May 3, 2016

Senator Damon Thayer  
702 Capital Avenue  
Capitol Annex 242  
Frankfort, KY 40601

William M. Landrum III, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
Office of the Secretary  
Room 383, Capitol Annex  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Don Parkinson, Secretary  
Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet  
Office of the Secretary  
24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Capital Plaza Tower  
500 Mero Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

RE: Kentucky Horse Park Examination

Dear Senator Thayer, Secretary Landrum, and Secretary Parkinson:

We have received and considered your requests to perform a special examination of the Kentucky Horse Park (Park). In light of the concerns you have shared, the Auditor of Public Accounts accepts your requests, and agrees to conduct an examination to evaluate certain operations and financial activities of the Park. The examination will cover fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016.

The primary focus of this examination will be to evaluate certain financial activities and other operations of the Park to determine whether proper policies, procedures, legal and contractual requirements, and appropriate accounting standards were followed. These procedures will include, but not be limited to: procurement policies and procedures, equine and



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campground rental operations, and other operational activities. To accomplish this, our office will review criteria, such as policies, procedures, and meeting minutes of the Kentucky Horse Park Commission; analyze financial information such as accounting ledgers and other internal financial information, bank statements, invoices, contracts, and prior audit reports; and perform other procedures deemed necessary. Ultimately, we will follow the data, and the full scope and extent of procedures will be dependent upon where the data leads.

At the end of our examination, we will issue a report describing any weaknesses identified and will make recommendations to strengthen and improve internal controls to ensure that Park's activities comply with applicable state statutes and policies, and that its operations are efficient and transparent. Preliminary examination procedures will begin as soon as possible to gather information, assess the magnitude of concerns brought to our attention, and to finalize the scope of the examination. Once those preliminary procedures are performed, we will provide you with an estimated cost and estimated timeframe for completion of the report.

We look forward to working with you during this examination. If you have any questions or wish to further discuss the scope of our review, please do not hesitate to contact Alice Wilson, Assistant State Auditor, Libby Carlin, Executive Director for the Office of Technology and Special Audits, or me.

Thanks and God Bless,



Mike Harmon  
Auditor of Public Accounts

cc: Jamie Link, Executive Director  
Kentucky Horse Park