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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

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COUNTY COULD COLLECT MORE FROM OTB ACTION

According to DuPage County Auditor Jim Rasins, while the County has received the proper amount of fees from the off-track betting facility located in Oakbrook Terrace, additional amounts could be collected if the County imposed an admission fee allowed by State law.

Each year the County receives in excess of \$800,000 in OTB fees from the operator of the wagering facility. This amount represents 1% of the handle, or amount wagered at the facility. The fees are deposited into the County's Corporate Fund and used for general County operations

Rasins completed an audit to verify that the OTB fees provided to the County were properly determined. The audit used information reported to the Illinois Racing Board by horse racing tracks throughout the country, regarding bets placed from the Oakbrook Terrace facility.

The audit concluded that the amounts sent to the County were properly calculated, were remitted on a timely basis, and were properly recorded by the County Treasurer.

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In his report, Rasins also noted that the County could generate additional revenue through the imposition of a fee related to the operation of the OTB facility.

“Illinois law allows the County to impose a fee of up to \$1.00 per admission to the facility. The fee would be collected by the facility operator, remitted to the Illinois Racing Board, and then sent by the (Racing) Board to the County,” the Auditor said.

The Racing Board does not maintain admission statistics for the 22 OTB facilities operating throughout the State. Therefore, an estimate of the additional revenue could not be readily calculated.

However, Rasins stated that the Oakbrook Terrace location typically accounts for the highest handle of the 22 facilities operating in the State. In 2001, statewide OTB wagers totaled \$572.2 million, with \$80.9 million (14%) of the total amount attributed to the local facility.

Copies of the audit report can be viewed on the internet at www.dupageco.org/auditor/.

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For additional information call (630)682-7190.