To: Board of Supervisors

From: C. McGarry

Re: County Administrator's Report for June 10, 2025 Board Meeting

A. DSS Building Project: The invitation for bid was posted and advertised on May 16, 2025, a mandatory pre-bid conference was held on May 28, 2025 with 20 contractors/subcontractors in attendance. PMA will be issuing addendum #1 this week that includes the sign-in sheet and provides answers to questions taken at the pre-bid and those received since then. Questions will be taken up to 5 days prior to when bids are due (June 21st). Bids are due at 2pm on June 26th and will be publicly opened, read aloud, and recorded at 2pm June 27th. I will circulate addendum #1 to the Board once received and we will post this to the IFB announcement on the County's RFP & Invitations to Bid webpage on the County's website.

- **B.** County/NCSA Work Group Meeting: The first work group meeting consisting of C. McGarry, A. Spivey, G. Mawyer, J. Ligon, D. Parr, G. Miller, J. Fitzgerald, R. McSwain, and D. Hight is scheduled for June 11th.
- C. Region 2000 Services Authority: The Authority held a continued meeting on May 28th to review the employee retention/compensation study and voted to implement most of the options with some revisions. Authority staff will bring back the fiscal impacts of the approved retention plan at the June 25th meeting, however the FY26 Member tipping fee is expected to be \$33.86/T or less. A public hearing on advertised tipping fee rates of \$35.44/T Member Rate Disposal and \$45.44/T Market Rate Disposal will be held at the regular June 25, 2025 Authority meeting, followed by review and consideration of the revised proposed budget, including the approved retention plan and the proposed Member and Market Rate tipping fees supporting that budget, and then adoption of those tipping fees. There should be no adverse impact to the County's FY26 budget as a result of Authority action on its Member rates.
- **D. Regional Water Supply Planning:** The CVPDC membership voted to authorize CVPDC to take the lead on Regional Water Supply planning activities on behalf of the Middle James River 2 Regional Planning Unit (RPU). They will be applying for initial DEQ grant funding in September to be used for updating member data and also applying for Virginia Department of Emergency Management funding for the overall Supply Plan update. In the next couple of months, the County will be asked to approve resolutions related to our participation in these activities.
- **E. Regional Jail Renovation & Expansion Project:** ACRJ has postponed its presentation to Nelson County and request for bond issuance approval until the July 8th regular Board meeting. Construction bids were returned higher than the project budget and ACRJ staff is currently working with the apparent low bidder of \$54 Million to bring the project costs to within the \$39 Million budget. The reduced scope of work will focus on improvements of the 1975 portions of the facility. More details will be provided at the June 12th ACRJ meeting.
- **F.** Commonwealth Transportation Board Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP): The final Draft 2026 SYIP and budget will be presented to the CTB for approval on June 17, 2025. The Lynchburg District VDOT office is recommending \$82.4 Million in project requests, with the second highest scoring project being a proposed \$12.7 Million roundabout at Route 151 and Tanbark Drive in Nelson County. (See attached)
- G. Regional Digital Inclusion Planning Grant: In July of 2024, the County along with the Counties of Albemarle, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene, and City of Charlottesville applied for and received \$150,000 in Regional DHCD Planning Grant funding, managed by Albemarle County, to develop a plan for extending broadband infrastructure to remaining unserved locations without a funded solution for connectivity and to design programs to meaningfully address broadband affordability, and adoption. The Regional planning effort found that to meet the goals of citizens using the internet for work and to earn income, more opportunity was needed across the participating localities, to increase digital skills and improve access to the devices that best suited those goals. The draft plan is expected to be circulated to participating localities at the end of the month. At the end of April, Albemarle County's Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office staff submitted an application for funding from the Digital Equity Act that would have supported community partners, such as Nelson, in digital inclusion work and the expansion of the digital navigator program. In early May, NTIA, manager of the Digital Equity Act funding, was directed to cancel all grants/funding associated with this program. In June NTIA issued new guidance on the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment program funding that provided for \$1.48 Billion in funding to Virginia. According to Albemarle staff, Virginia has predicted that it would spend approximately \$900 Million to connect 100,000 remaining

locations, leaving upwards of \$500 Million that could be used for digital inclusion programs. This guidance, according to the Albemarle staff's email (see attached), puts in question the possible uses of these remaining funds and likely prohibits any programming that would have been allowed under the Digital Equity Act. A group called the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, is seeking letters to the US Secretary of Commerce and Acting Administrator of NTIA asking for reinstatement of the Digital Equity Act. (draft letter attached). Please advise if the Board supports the County signing onto this letter campaign.

- **H.** County Office Space Needs Data: As requested, the space needs data collected to date has been circulated to the Board.
- I. Meals and Lodging Tax Collection & Lodging Entity Tracking: See Attached Charts # of Lodging Units is 826, up from 824 in the previous report.
- J. Staff Reports: Department and office reports for May/June have been provided.

Staff Recommended Scenario – Lynchburg

Application ID	Project	Organization	Total Cost	SMART SCALE Request	SMART SCALE Score	Step Funded
11691	Orphanage Road and Franklin Turnpike Traffic Signal	Pittsylvania County	\$5,973,029	\$5,973,029	18.91	DGP
11471	Route 151 at Tanbark Drive Roundabout	Nelson County	\$12,693,049	\$12,693,049	2.52	DGP
11493	Timberlake Road Improvements (Greenview Dr. to Laxton Rd.)	Campbell County	\$33,364,620	\$33,364,620	1.71	DGP
11492	Route 29 Safety Improvements - Southern Section	Campbell County	\$30,407,170	\$30,407,170	1.51	DGP
	Total Staff Recommended - 4	Total	\$82,437,868	\$82,437,868		

 From:
 Jason Inofuentes

 To:
 Jason Inofuentes

 Cc:
 Kaki Dimock

Subject: Regional Digital Inclusion Plan Update FW: [NDIA Listserv] Reminder! Sign-On to Our Letter to the Administration

re Cancellation of Digital Equity Act Grants

Date: Monday, June 9, 2025 1:33:06 PM

Colleagues,

I wanted to update you all on the last couple of month's of work. But first, a quick request, there's a letter below looking for signers, please consider lending your support.

At the end of April, the office submitted an application for funding from the Digital Equity Act. The funding, while modest, would have helped us begin directly supporting community partners in their digital inclusion work and would have allowed us to expand our digital navigator program.

In Early May, President Trump directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which manages the Digital Equity Act funding, to cancel all grants and funding associated with this program. Following that, Virginia received a letter terminating the Commonwealth's portion of this funding, and several community partners received similar letters terminating previously awarded funding.

Earlier this month, NTIA at the direction of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick issued new guidance regarding the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment program. Virginia received \$1.48B in funding and predicted that it would spend approximately \$900M to connect the remaining ~100,000 locations, including ~300 in Albemarle County. That would leave upwards of \$500M that could be used for digital inclusion programming.

NTIA's new guidance would likely result in many of these unserved locations receiving fixed wireless solutions (either terrestrial or orbital) rather than fiber; effectively leaving expensive locations behind, and closing the door on future expansion programs. The guidance also puts in question the possible uses for remaining funds, likely prohibiting any programming that would have been allowed under the Digital Equity Act.

To put it bluntly, things are grim as it relates to funding.

And this month I am writing our Regional Digital Inclusion Plan with plans to deliver a draft by month's end. After month's of engagement, having conversations with several communities and stakeholders, one thing is abundantly clear: residents throughout the region have the will and desire to learn new digital skills, but lack the opportunity.

Some residents can't afford the devices or the service. Some are on wait lists for free classes, but find themselves losing their basic skills in the months between sessions. Some have decades of experience using computers, but are uncomfortable with video calls, touch screens, and mobile apps.

But anywhere we asked, "What do you wish you could do on-line but can't?" we got the same answer: Work.

Public and private sources have invested more than \$100M towards broadband expansion,

putting this largely rural region on the doorstep of universal broadband access; for many that investment will go wasted without the ability to develop the skills necessary to put those connections to use.

Our model for meeting this need is to fund community partners, that's you all, that are putting limited resources towards digital skills programs; expanding these programs to meet demand. Supplementing our partners we would also work to expand our digital navigator program and provide a platform to coordinate and collaborate digital inclusion programming.

Instead, unless something changes (i.e. the administration changes its position, judicial or legislative action reverses the decision, or a new funding source is identified) we will continue to work with you all to discuss digital inclusion best practices and issues, we will continue to serve residents through our digital navigators, and we will continue to grow the coalition.

So, please be on the look out for a call from me as I get to the end of this plan I will want your feedback and to see how our navigators can serve your community. Thanks all for your time.

Jason Inofuentes
he/him/his
Program Manager
Broadband Accessibility and Affordability Office
Albemarle County

jinofuentes@albemarle.org

434-227-4518

401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, VA 22902

From: main@NDIA.groups.io <main@NDIA.groups.io> On Behalf Of Amy Huffman NDIA (she/her)

via groups.io

Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 2:52 PM

To: NDIA ListServ <main@ndia.groups.io>

Subject: [NDIA Listserv] Reminder! Sign-On to Our Letter to the Administration re Cancellation of

Digital Equity Act Grants

CAUTION: This message originated outside the County of Albemarle email system. DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

Hi. Friends!

This is just a friendly reminder to sign on to our letter to the Administration calling on them to reinstate the Digital Equity Act **if you can!** We're extending the sign-on due date a bit, so more of you can sign on!

We welcome signatures from any organization that was promised, expected, or

would have benefited from funds from the Digital Equity Act. So please sign on if:

- you were recommended for an award,
- were a sub-recipient of a project recommended for an award,
- a sub-recipient/sub-grantee (or expected to be) of one of the state Digital Equity Capacity Grant programs,
- or would have supported the implementation of a DEA-funded project/program (ie. one of your partners or organizations in your ecosystem

Next Steps:

- You can review the letter <u>here</u>.
- To sign the letter, <u>complete this super brief form</u> or email Amy Huffman at <u>amy@digitalinclusion.org</u> directly.
- Once finalized, NDIA will send a PDF copy of this letter to all signers,
 Secretary Lutnick, NTIA Acting Administrator Cassady, and Congressional Leaders in the House and Senate.
- Please sign on to the letter by COB on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025.

Best, Amy		
	Amy Huffman Policy Director National Digital Inclusion Alliance She/Her/Hers	
	amy@digitalinclusion.org www.digitalinclusion.org	
	Register for Net Inclusion, May 20-22, 2025!	

Groups.io Links:

You receive all messages sent to this group.

<u>View/Reply Online (#5980)</u> | <u>Reply to Sender</u> | <u>Reply to Group</u> | <u>Mute This Topic</u> | <u>New Topic Your Subscription</u> | <u>Contact Group Owner</u> | <u>Unsubscribe</u> [jinofuentes@albemarle.org]



[Date]

The Honorable Howard Lutnick Secretary U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue NW Washington, DC 20230 Mr. Adam Cassady
Acting Administrator
National Telecommunications
and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Acting Administrator Cassady,

On behalf of the [X] organizations serving communities from Alaska to Maine, we, the undersigned, urge you to reinstate the Digital Equity Act (DEA) Programs that were cancelled on May 9, 2025. We are the organizations that would have carried out the work funded by the Digital Equity Act Program, created and authorized by Congress in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. Our organizations were recommended for a Competitive Grant Award, were planned sub-grantees of Competitive Grant Awardees, would have been sub-recipients of State Capacity Grant Programs, or support local digital inclusion programs and organizations like Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) that carry out the vital digital inclusion work.

In the 21st century, access to technology is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. However, according to the US Census' American Community Survey, 31 million American households still face significant barriers to accessing affordable high-speed internet, affordable devices, and the digital skills necessary to participate in the digital economy.

We, the undersigned organizations, have a proven track record of helping members of our communities overcome the obstacles that keep them offline. If the funding is reinstated, our shovel-ready projects will help disconnected people in rural, suburban, urban, and Tribal communities in all 56 US States and Territories access telehealth services, strengthen small businesses, increase government efficiency, learn new Al skills, and advance our communities' economic competitiveness.

Without these critical funds, American residents and businesses are left behind in crucial areas:

- Economic Opportunity: Fewer small businesses and entrepreneurs will be able
 to compete with international businesses because they won't be able to reach
 customers or leverage e-commerce platforms. Fewer workers will create
 resumes, apply for jobs, take online classes to learn coding or new and
 emerging technologies, and therefore contribute to the U.S. economy.
- 2. **Education**: More students will have to do school work in parking lots, fall behind their peers, and have fewer opportunities to learn Al and other emerging technologies.
- 3. **Healthcare:** Nearly 4.5 million Americans living in rural communities won't be able to get the virtual healthcare they need from their doctors.
- 4. **Online Safety:** According to the FTC, in 2024, US consumers lost \$12.5 billion to fraud. Without much-needed cybersecurity training and Al literacy, many seniors, veterans, and rural families are more vulnerable to internet-based scams and fraud.

We request that you reverse the cancellation and reinstate the full \$2.75 billion allocated in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for all states and territories via the Capacity Grant Program and the individual projects supported by the Competitive Grant Program. Reinstating these funds is a common-sense, fiscally smart, pro-growth decision that ensures our workforce and businesses remain competitive. The funds are vital to driving positive change and creating a future where everyone has access to the opportunities the digital world offers.

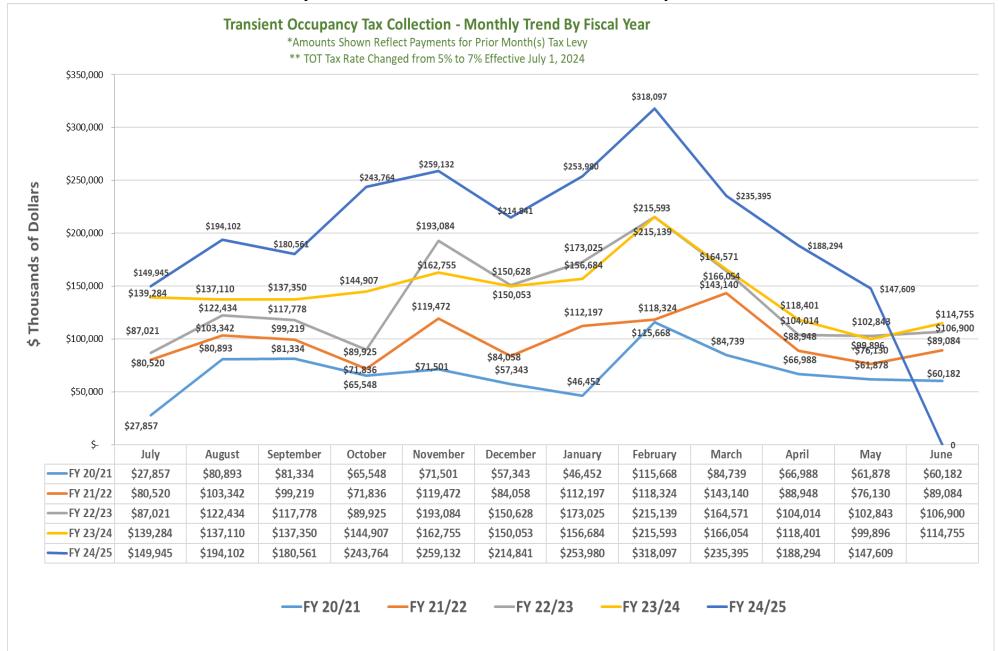
Sincerely,

Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Additional Signatories:

[Name, Title, Business/Organization Name]

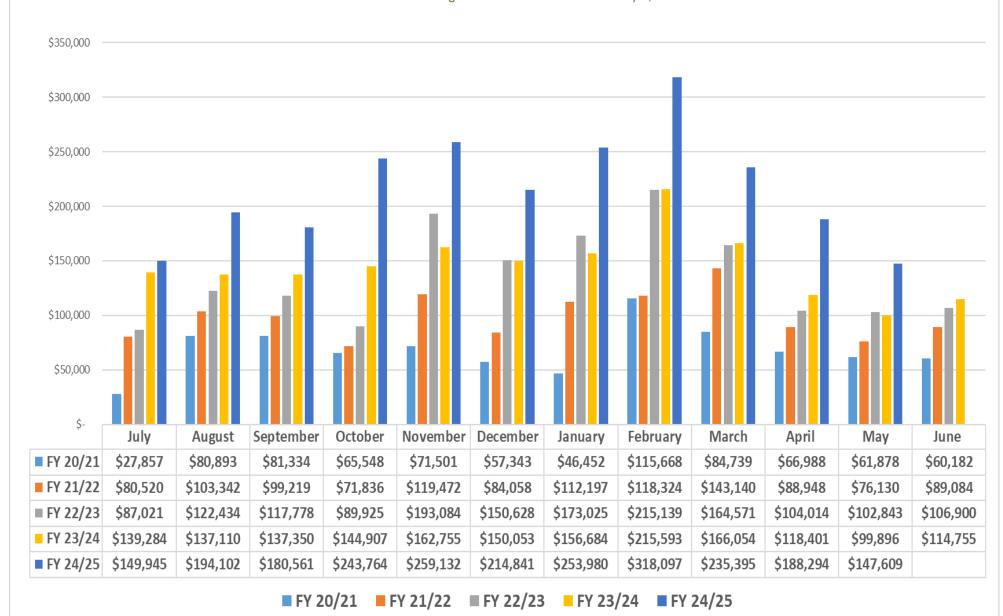
[Additional lines for other organizations to sign]

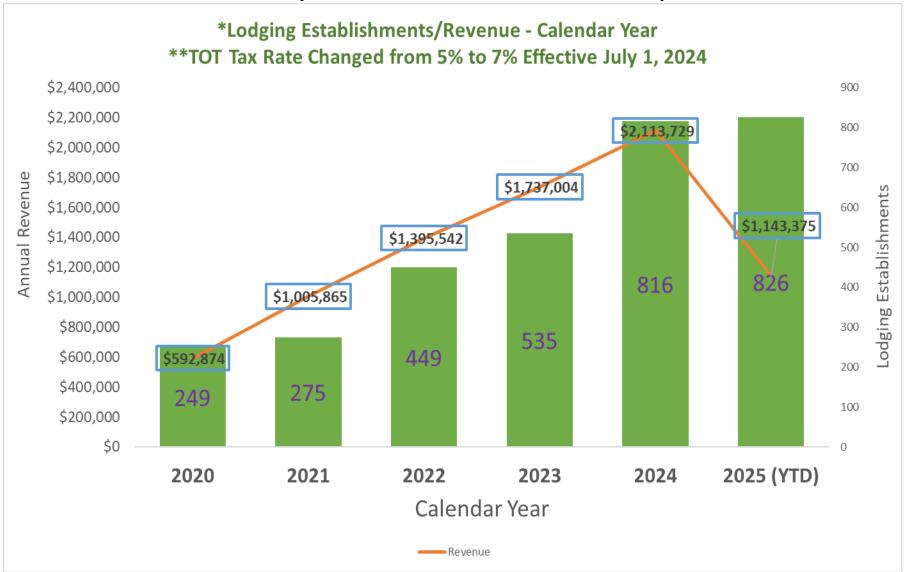




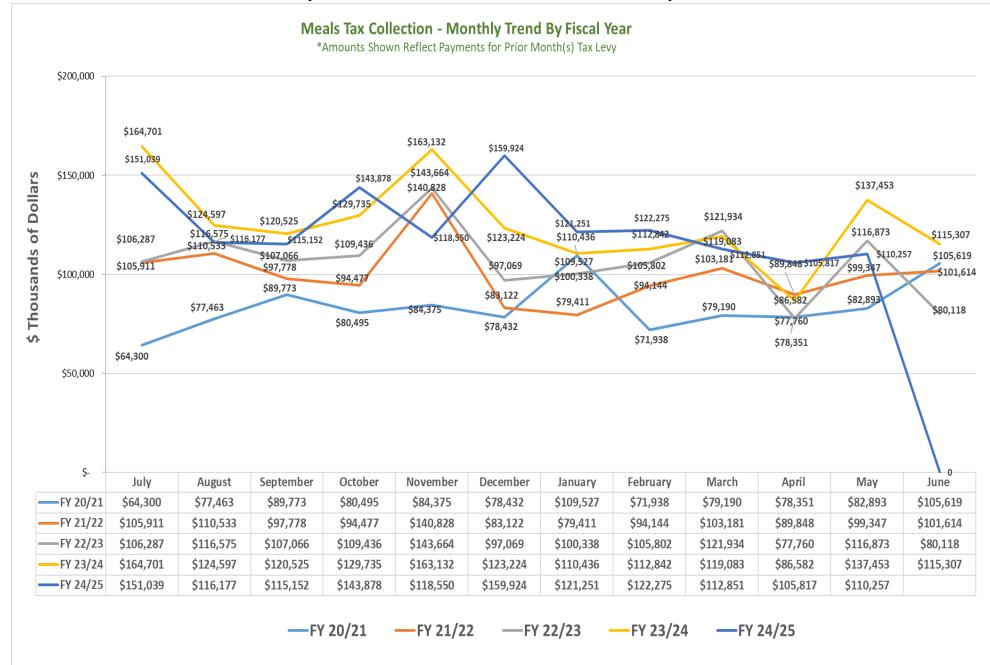
*Amounts Shown Reflect Payments for Prior Month(s) Tax Levy

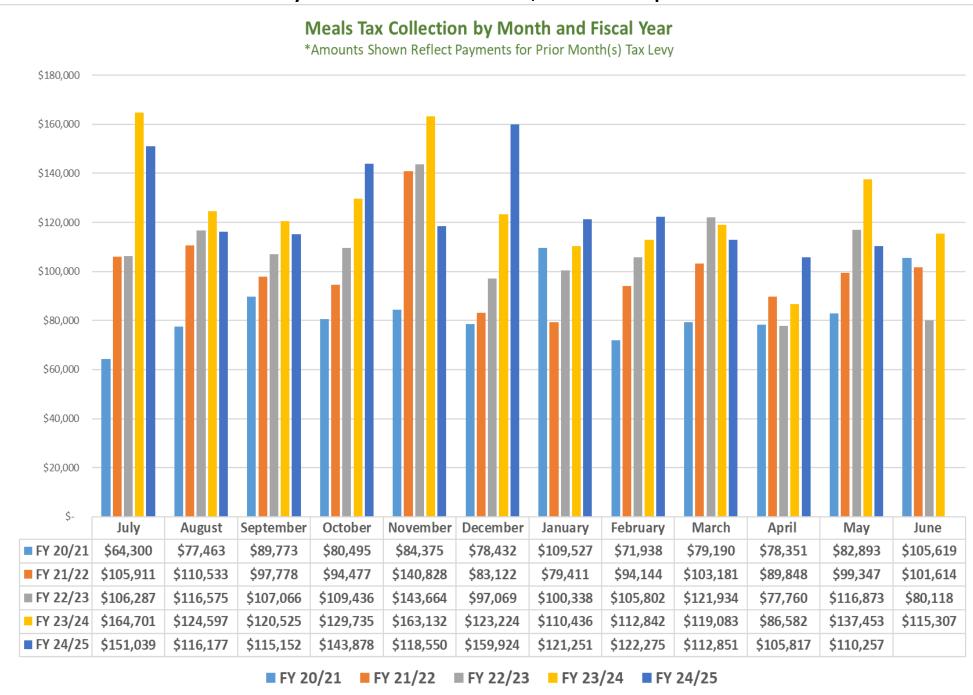
** TOT Tax Rate Changed from 5% to 7% Effective July 1, 2024





^{*}Lodging Establishments is the number of businesses who are registered with the Commissioner of the Revenue for lodging in Nelson County. The number includes businesses who may have multiple properties who remit for all units with one payment. Some businesses remit their taxes quarterly, and due to their start date, may not be on a January-March-June-September schedule. Many businesses utilize services such as AirBnB who remit on their behalf and by State Code, these revenues are only to be disclosed in aggregate; no personal information can be shared (55.1-1209).





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REVENUE SUMMARY

--DETAIL-- 7/01/2024 - 5/31/2025 --DETAIL--

MAJOR		BUDGET	APPR.	CURRENT	Y-T-D	%
ACCT#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAI
1202	***UTILITY TAXES***					
0025	Electric Consumer Utility Tax	537,266.00	537,266.00	42,917.68	481,932.54	55,333.46 10.2
0030	Telecommunications Consumer Utility	.00	.00	.00	114.62	114.62- 100.0
	UTILITY TAXES	537,266.00	537,266.00	42,917.68	482,047.16	55,218.84 10.2
1203	***BUSINESS LICENSES***					
0001	Business Licenses	48,510.00	48,510.00	3,603.00	51,642.00	3,132.00- 6.4
	BUSINESS LICENSES	48,510.00	48,510.00	3,603.00	51,642.00	3,132.00- 6.4
1204	***UTILITY FRANCHISE TAX***					
0025	Electric Consumption Tax	65,000.00	65,000.00	4,333.81	59,636.31	5,363.69 8.2
0030	Telecommunication Gross Receipts Tx	15,000.00	15,000.00	.00	11,705.37	3,294.63 21.9
	UTILITY FRANCHISE TAX	80,000.00	80,000.00	4,333.81	71,341.68	8,658.32 10.8
1205	***MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES***					
0009	Motor Vechicle License Refund	1,200.00	1,200.00	.00	775.00-	1,975.00 164.5
0028	Vehicle License Fee 2019	.00	.00	.00	111.73	111.73- 100.0
0029	Vehicle License Fee 2020	.00	.00	77.50	835.92	835.92- 100.0
0030	Vehicle License Fee 2021	.00	.00	193.75	1,857.26	1,857.26- 100.0
0031	Vehicle License Fee 2022	.00	.00	426.25	4,990.59	4,990.59- 100.0
0032	Vehicle License Fee 2023	.00	.00	1,117.79	27,168.03	27,168.03- 100.0
0033	Vehicle License Fee 2024	738,890.00	738,890.00	10,433.32	187,886.08	551,003.92 74.5
0034	Vehicle License Fee 2025	.00	.00	256,739.27	272,769.38	272,769.38- 100.0
	MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES	740,090.00	740,090.00	268,987.88	494,843.99	245,246.01 33.1
1206	***BANK FRANCHISE TAX***					
0001	Bank Franchise Tax	109,728.00	109,728.00	70,017.00	70,017.00	39,711.00 36.1
	BANK FRANCHISE TAX	109,728.00	109,728.00	70,017.00	70,017.00	39,711.00 36.1
1207	***RECORDATION TAXES***					
0001	Recordation Taxes	350,000.00	350,000.00	20,639.45	324,014.49	25,985.51 7.4
	RECORDATION TAXES	350,000.00	350,000.00	20,639.45	324,014.49	25,985.51 7.4
1208	***MEALS & LODGING TAXES***					
0001	Transient Occupancy Tax	2,268,000.00	2,268,000.00	147,609.14	2,385,719.75	117,719.75- 5.1
0002	Meals Tax	1,589,026.00	1,589,026.00	110,257.40	1,377,171.41	211,854.59 13.3
	MEALS & LODGING TAXES	3,857,026.00	3,857,026.00	257,866.54	3,762,891.16	94,134.84 2.4
1210	***Street Light Tax***					
1216	***E-911 PHONE SERVICE FEES***					
1300	PERMITS AND LICENSES					
1301	***DOG LICENSES***					
0032	Dog Licenses - 2024	.00	.00	.00	562.00	562.00- 100.0
0033	Dog Licenses - 2025	13,200.00	13,200.00	137.00	10,846.00	2,354.00 17.8
	DOG LICENSES	13,200.00	13,200.00	137.00	11,408.00	1,792.00 13.5