



# County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES  
— AUDITOR —

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Dusty Rhodes  
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Randy Cole, the state's Controlling Board president and the Office of Budget Management's policy adviser, was recently quoted in a news article saying shared services are part of Gov. John Kasich's vision for how services need to be transformed in Ohio.

He added that there are \$45 million in grants and loans available to encourage communities to share and collaborate. County Auditor Dusty Rhodes said, "The irony of this offer is truly profound".

"Over fifteen (15) years ago the state made a similar promise of \$80 million to encourage cooperation between Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati in developing the city's riverfront. These funds were an important part of the planning in the stadium finance package", he said.

"Importantly, the state still owes us \$7.55 million on this pledge", said Rhodes.

"Both the county and the city cooperated and "shared services" to complete the projects. This joint effort would seem to meet the state's test and vision of governments working together, consolidating their labors. Yet the state has failed to complete their part of the bargain", he said.

"Considering the state now has "\$45 million" for such efforts it is time for them to make good on their original promise. I am asking our local legislators and the Controlling Board to provide these funds. If the state meets their obligation perhaps the county will be able to meet theirs in the coming year.

"New dollars committed to encourage such "shared services" will be more credible when prior ones are met. Don't come to me with new promises when you haven't fulfilled the old ones for the same thing", said Rhodes

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