



# County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES

AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
138 EAST COURT STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

May 11, 2011

Honorable Hamilton County Commissioners  
138 E. Court Street, Room 605  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Honorable Commissioners:

We have previously corresponded and talked about my concerns that our Weights and Measures operation is not adequately funded to meet the needs of Hamilton County taxpayers/consumers. I have attached copies of my letters dated November 15, 2010 and December 3, 2010 for your ease of reference.

Permit me to provide an update upon the completion of the first third of 2011.

Under current budgetary constraints, we are unable to protect Hamilton County citizens in the fashion they deserve and have come to expect.

As you know, we have only two inspectors at this time. They are General Fund employees.

A quick look at the numbers makes the case for me.

As you will recall from my letter of December 3, 2010, our Weights and Measures staff completed some 14,000 device checks (gas pumps, scales) in 2009 with 3.5 to four full-time inspectors. Additionally, over 3200 packages in 169 lots were checked for accurate weight, and over 20,000 items underwent price verification scrutiny to ensure that shoppers paid the actual price. In 2010, for much of the year we were down to two inspectors. That year we inspected some 11,000 devices, checked 2043 packages in 120 lots and only 500 items underwent price verification testing.

Having started out the annual cycle for 2011 with only two full-time inspectors, we are on track to complete about 9000 device checks and 2000 package checks in 90 lots. We have done absolutely no price verification work thus far in 2011.

Our inspectors are hard workers and have learned to divide their labor, traverse the county and conduct inspections efficiently. However, they are so strained that we will

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need to move to a two year cycle to check all Hamilton County devices, and package and price verification testing may be a thing of the past. What a shame at a time when it is more important than ever to assure citizens they are getting a fair shake at the gas pump and at the cash register.

My invitation that you shadow our Chief Inspector in the field remains open. Perhaps it is the best way for you to see the diligence and efficiency of our State certified, Gallo award-winning inspectors and, even more importantly, the value of the services they provide to Hamilton County consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dusty Rhodes". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and "R".

Dusty Rhodes  
513-946-4047