



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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NEWS RELEASE

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Onondaga County Policies Lead to Minor Windfall for County at Expense of Employees

Syracuse, NY – Onondaga County Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA, released his audit report on the County's parking/transportation flex program. "The program needs to be better monitored or else the County will profit from participating employees," said Antonacci. The program provides a qualified transportation benefit option for County employees which enables employees to use pre-tax dollars for certain commuter, transit, or parking expenses.

"During the course of the audit, we learned there were employees who were carrying significant balances. These employees were contributing more money into their account, but then not spending it down. Once they leave the County's employ, and they fail to use any of the remaining funds, that money would be forfeited to the County," said Antonacci.

Antonacci was disappointed by the Administration's response. "The Administration told us it wasn't their responsibility. They said it is up to the individual employees to monitor their accounts. I respectfully disagree with that assessment of an employee benefits program like this, when you could simply run a report before the annual election period. If you can easily and clearly see an issue, then why not have a policy in place to address it?" asked Antonacci.

The Audit found over 25 employees with balances over \$1,000.00, and only five of those employees had made disbursements in the previous nine months. "Over \$10,000.00 of employee transportation funds were forfeited annually the last four years. While it is not much when compared to our \$1.3 billion budget, it could be a lot for one of our employees," concluded Antonacci.

You can find the complete audit at <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/documents/ParkingFlexFinal.pdf>.

For further information regarding this release, contact Robert Antonacci II, CPA at (315) 435-2130.