



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the
County Comptroller

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NEWS RELEASE

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Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci II Sets the Record Straight

Syracuse, NY – Onondaga County Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA set the record straight today concerning sales tax and other issues raised by the County Executive in recent weeks. “The County Executive continues to cherry-pick numbers,” Antonacci said. “Sales tax is not as rosy as she claims it is,” he continued.

“Over the last five years Onondaga County has spent over \$25 million in sales tax which it never received,” Antonacci reported. “When the Administration started to make aggressive projections for the budget and we told them it was unrealistic, they stopped asking our opinion,” he continued. The chart below shows annual sales tax budget projections compared to the actual receipts.

Year	Budget	Received	Difference
2012	\$312,277,934	\$320,401,181	\$8,123,247
2013	\$327,827,531	\$327,200,029	(\$627,502)
2014	\$337,442,519	\$337,407,207	(\$35,312)
2015	\$345,340,162	\$336,572,590	(\$8,767,572)
2016	\$349,753,832	\$332,777,794	(\$16,976,038)
2017	\$347,753,638	\$340,367,002	(\$7,386,636)

5-year total (\$25,669,813)

Antonacci also addressed claims that the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report (“CAFR”) was late. “We are releasing the CAFR later this year, but it is not late. Over my tenure, this Office has been blessed with an amazing staff. We were traditionally able to get the CAFR out in late April or early May. Due to budget cuts and incompetence of the Administration, an early release of the CAFR was not possible,” Antonacci said. “Over the last two years due to the Administration’s revenge budget cuts, we have lost four of the six individuals responsible for the CAFR. Absorbing one or two may have been possible, but coping with the loss of four individuals and their 90-plus years of institutional knowledge has been a monumental task. We will release the CAFR in a timely manner, but I’m sorry if the County Executive’s politically motivated budget cuts have caused her an inconvenience,” Antonacci explained.

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Nearly as important as the budget cuts was the closing of the 2017 books. “Not only have budget cuts hampered our ability to get the CAFR done as early as we would have liked, but our start was delayed due to an unusually late closing of the 2017 books,” Antonacci reported. “The Finance Department was still making entries in the 2017 books up until April 2018. This was unprecedented. There have been years we were able to issue the CAFR at the time the Administration was still making entries. For the County Executive to now complain her trip to New York City was delayed is hypocritical,” Antonacci concluded.

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