



Nikki R. Haley, Governor  
Marcia S. Adams, Executive Director

STATE OFFICE of VICTIM  
ASSISTANCE

Larry Barker, Ph.D., Director  
State Office of Victim Assistance  
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 401  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803.734.1900

September 10, 2015

Chief Adam Gilstrap  
City of Liberty  
206 W Front Street  
Liberty, SC 29657-1010

Dear Chief Gilstrap:

Thank you for your response email and memo regarding the Programmatic Review and Financial Audit for the City of Liberty Victim Assistance Program conducted on February 25, 2015. Per your email dated September 8, 2015 and memo dated May 21, 2015 but received September 8, 2015, it appears the City has paid the victim advocate's salary out of the General Fund during the timeframe reviewed which was FY 10 -11 to FY 14-15 and that you should receive a credit because this was an allowable expenditure to be paid out of the Victim Assistance fund. We agree with applying a credit to offset the Victim Assistance fund reimbursement as outlined in the SOVA audit issued September 2, 2015. However, once the report is issued we do not amend any of the reports but will follow up on your concerns in detail during the SOVA 90 Day Follow up audit to be scheduled in December 2015.

Please understand that had we discussed and reviewed your memo dated May 21, 2015 but received September 8, 2015 prior to issuing the report, the allowable credit would have been taken into consideration. It is our goal to work with all counties, municipalities and other entities to train and educate them regarding the Victim Assistance funds. In doing so, we want to make every attempt to give credit if and when warranted. Therefore, please be aware that some of the items you noted in your email regarding approved guidelines may not apply to your victim assistance program due to dual roles of your victim advocate and various circumstances. The auditor will go into detail regarding this issue during the 90 Day Follow up. Please make sure you review the report to document credits that have already been afforded to you.

However, in anticipation of the upcoming 90 Day Follow up audit, we ask that you prepare a breakdown of the victim advocate's salary and fringe benefits from FY 10-11 to FY 14-15 by fiscal year. Specifically include those salaries and fringe benefits paid from 07/01/2011 to 01/31/2015 only since this was the scope of the audit. Therefore, all figures must remain in this timeframe. This information may be submitted at any time; however, our office will officially request this at the beginning of our SOVA 90 Day Follow up review.

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South Carolina Department of Administration  
1200 Senate Street, Suite 460 Columbia, SC 29201  
Post Office Box 2825, Columbia, SC 29211

Ph: 803.734.8120  
Fx: 803.734.9002  
[www.admin.sc.gov](http://www.admin.sc.gov)



Again, we encourage you to prepare and maintain in your records the above information prior to the SOVA 90 Day Follow up because this information will be required to make a final determination of reimbursement. At that time, we will review it carefully to ensure you are properly credited. In your response, you requested the credit to offset the allowable cost of purchasing the victim advocate's vehicle. However, please note there were other unallowable expenditures outlined in the audit report and SOVA will take those into consideration as well.

Additionally, we definitely agree that most of these issues could have been avoided after the State Auditor's report was issued June 30, 2011 and before the SOVA audit was issued in 2015. Please note, as outlined in the report, SOVA made several attempts to address these issues with the City of Liberty both during the State Auditor's site visit in 2011 as well as during the SOVA annual budget review phases. Again, these are issues that will be discussed in detail during the SOVA 90 Day Follow up. The auditor will also provide to you at that time additional technical assistance.

Again, please note, all SOVA audit reports are public information and the official report with your email and memo and this response will be posted to the SOVA website at [www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov) (click on the Auditing tab). Should you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Ms. Robin Eaddy at (803)734-1048.

Sincerely,



Larry Barker, Ph.D.

Director

cc: Mayor Eric Boughman  
Erin Lewis

