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April 19, 2023

The Honorable Attorney General Michelle A. Henry
Department of the Attorney General
16th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Local Share Account (LSA) Concerns in Washington County

Madam Attorney General,

I am writing to formally request your office investigate and conduct a forensic audit of Washington County's Local Share Account (LSA) and its process for awarding funding. While I do not make this request lightly, the people of Washington County deserve openness, transparency and accountability in all aspects of state and local government. That is sorely lacking when it comes to the LSA program.

As a freshman lawmaker, I heard from many citizens concerned about the program and what they saw as a lack of information and, ultimately, fairness in how funds were awarded. I approached the county commissioners to discuss those concerns. Five years later, after numerous right-to-know requests, the county commissioners have refused to address several key concerns:

1. A clear conflict of interest exists as LSA funds are awarded to the organization the LSA's executive director represents.
2. The commissioners of Washington County have not addressed the lack of fairness, accountability and transparency of the LSA awards process.

3. There appears to be \$10 million in funding unaccounted for from the LSA account.

For the general public, my office created an LSA webpage that contains all the information, press releases and video of a press conference held on Oct. 21, 2021, at the Washington County Courthouse asking the commissioners to disclose to the public all the information gleaned from our right-to-know efforts and other information uncovered over this five-year effort.

Our citizens deserve answers to these questions. We believe your office will compel honest and timely answers to finally resolve the issues outlined above.

Further, we are copying this request to the Auditor General's Office, which has also been contacted about these concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for assisting us in ensuring the people of Pennsylvania are served by a government that is fair, accountable and transparent.

Sincerely,



Representative Bud Cook
50th Legislative District

CC:
Auditor General
Legislators (Washington County)
Senators
Washington County Commissioners
Media