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Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.

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*A Professional Association of Certified Public Accountants and Management Consultants*

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Commissioners  
Cleveland County, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cleveland County, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2007, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Cleveland County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall basic financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cleveland County, North Carolina, as of June 30, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where appropriate, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund and the school capital reserve fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance Required Supplementary Information are not required parts of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion thereon.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 5, 2007, on our consideration of Cleveland County's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreement and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Cleveland County, North Carolina. The combining and individual nonmajor fund statements and schedules, as well as the accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal and State awards as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Not-Profit Organizations*, and the State Single Audit Implementation Act, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Other data in this report, designated as "Introductory Section" and "Statistical Section" in the table of contents, except as noted above, have not been audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion on such data.

*Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.*

Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.  
October 5, 2007