From: Fleming, Tania (SAO)
To: Stowe, Justin (SAO)
Cc: Monaghan, Sohara (SAO); Good, Shauna (SAO)
Subject: RE: Tentatively Planned Performance Audit - Civil Asset Forfeiture in Washington
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:36:00 PM
Attachments: image003.png
image001.png

Justin,

After speaking with Sohara, we decided that we wouldn't need to update Washington State Patrol on the start of the audit. Internally, we'll have our people start research a few weeks earlier, but won't need to change when we actually reach out to WSP.

That said, there's still a question of contacting the Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs. I know you mentioned that you'd copy whatever email I send to WSP, but since we won't be following up with WSP, I took the liberty of drafting some language that can be used as a reply to Chris' email if you choose to use it:

> Dear Mr. Strachan,
>
> I want to follow up with you regarding a message we sent to you in July of last year regarding a tentative performance audit on civil asset forfeiture. The message below includes a brief description of the topic.
>
> We have now incorporated this audit into our workplan and plan to begin researching on the topic starting in November. We will primarily work with the Washington State Patrol but may contact you to better understand the topic and hear your perspective.
>
> The team lead of this audit, Sohara Monaghan, and her team may be in contact with you in a few weeks to introduce themselves and hear your perspective.
>
> Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Tania Fleming, MPA
Principal Performance Auditor, Office of the Washington State Auditor
(564) 999-0823 | www.sao.wa.gov
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From: Stowe, Justin (SAO) <justin.stowe@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Good, Shauna (SAO) <goods@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Fleming, Tania (SAO) <flemingt@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: Tentatively Planned Performance Audit - Civil Asset Forfeiture in Washington

Great, thanks Shauna, much appreciated!

From: Good, Shauna (SAO) <goods@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Stowe, Justin (SAO) <justin.stowe@sao.wa.gov>
Cc: Fleming, Tania (SAO) <flemingt@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: FW: Tentatively Planned Performance Audit - Civil Asset Forfeiture in Washington

Hi Justin –

I was looking through my older emails looking for something else when I happened about this email Chris Cortines sent to WASPC regarding the Civil Asset Forfeiture audit. I thought it might be useful to you to know who we originally reached out to regarding the audit.

-Shauna

From: Cortines, Christopher (SAO) <cortinec@sao.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:05 AM
To: steve@waspc.org
Cc: Fleming, Tania (SAO) <flemingt@sao.wa.gov>; Good, Shauna (SAO) <goods@sao.wa.gov>; Smith, Melissa (SAO) <smithme@sao.wa.gov>; White, Bradley (SAO) <whitebd@sao.wa.gov>; Osborne, Lindsay (SAO) <osbornel@sao.wa.gov>
Subject: Tentatively Planned Performance Audit - Civil Asset Forfeiture in Washington

Good afternoon Mr. Strachan –

For the 2021-23 biennium, the Washington State Auditor's Office tentatively plans to conduct the following performance audit:

Civil Asset Forfeiture in Washington. *This audit would examine the use of civil asset forfeiture by the state's law enforcement agencies. Civil asset forfeiture allows law enforcement agencies to seize —and then keep or sell—any property that is alleged to be involved in a crime. Under state law, property owners do not need to be arrested or convicted in order to have their property seized. The audit may examine whether or not civil asset forfeiture is functioning as originally intended—to deter criminal activity and disrupt criminal organizations. This could include an analysis of the types of offenses that lead to asset forfeiture, how seized funds are used, and the effect on property owners and crime rates. The audit could also include a review of asset forfeiture data reported by law enforcement agencies to the state treasurer.*

If we proceed with this audit, we anticipate working with the Washington State Patrol and a selection of local government law enforcement agencies.

Please note that we are busy completing several performance audits as we speak. Once we have worked through our existing performance audits, we will reassess our capacity for conducting this

tentatively planned audit. We should know more early next year. We will reach out to you then to confirm our plans to complete this audit and when we would start it.

Between now and then, if you or your members have any questions, please feel free to call me. We look forward to the discussion.

Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Cortines, CPA, Assistant Director
Washington State Auditor's Performance Audit Program
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