

## Commonwealth of Virginia

## Auditor of Public Accounts

P.O. Box 1295 Richmond, Virginia 23218

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Claiborne H. Stokes, Jr. Chief Judge County of Goochland General District Court

The Honorable Deborah S. Tinsley
Chief Judge
County of Goochland Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Audit Period: July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Court System: County of Goochland

Judicial District: Sixteenth

We are performing a statewide audit of the Combined District Courts. During our review of this court, we conducted certain audit procedures, as we deemed appropriate.

Management of this court is an important part of the court's accountability since you are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls and complying with applicable laws and regulations. During our review, we noted the following matter requiring management's attention and corrective action.

## **Request Tax Set-Off Refunds**

Repeat: No

The Clerk did not submit claims to the Virginia Department of Taxation (Taxation) for tax setoff of refunds for delinquent court fines and costs totaling \$16,065, resulting in a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth and locality. Section 58.1-521 of the Code of Virginia requires that all courts use the tax set-off program to collect unpaid fines and costs. Courts must submit claims for setoff of tax refunds through Taxation's automated accounting system. The Clerk should use the tax refund set-off process to maximize collections as required by the Code of Virginia.

The Honorable Claiborne H. Stokes, Jr., Chief Judge The Honorable Deborah S. Tinsley, Chief Judge March 26, 2024 Page Two

We acknowledge the cooperation extended to us by the Clerk and her staff during this engagement.

Staci A. Henshaw
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

LJH:vks

cc: Dianne H. White, Clerk

Paul F. DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services Supreme Court of Virginia