

Gould Killian CPA Group, P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Commissioners
Buncombe County, North Carolina
Asheville, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Buncombe County, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Buncombe County's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these basic financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Asheville Area Regional Airport Authority. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us; and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Asheville Area Regional Airport Authority, is based solely on the report of the other auditor.

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 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 financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit and the report of the other auditor provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Buncombe County, North Carolina, as of June 30, 2008, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where appropriate, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 31, 2008, on our consideration of Buncombe County's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. 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.

Management's Discussion and Analysis, the schedules of funding progress, employer contributions and the notes to the required schedules for the Law Enforcement Officers' Special Separation Allowance, and the schedule of funding progress for the Asheville Regional Airport Authority are not a required part 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 this information and express no opinion thereon.

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Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Buncombe County, North Carolina. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules and the statistical tables, 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 Non-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. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards have 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. The introductory and statistical information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on this information.

Donald Killian CPA Group, P.A.

Asheville, North Carolina
October 31, 2008