

THOMPSON DUNAVANT PLC

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Chairman and Members
Shelby County Board of Commissioners and
the Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee
Memphis, Tennessee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Shelby County, Tennessee, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Shelby County, Tennessee's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of Shelby County Health Care Corporation, Agricenter International, Inc., and Emergency Communications District of Shelby County, Tennessee which represent \$182,277,658 and \$305,232,725, respectively, of the assets and revenues of the component units, and Shelby County Retirement System, which represents \$718,464,215 of the assets and 100% of the revenues of the fiduciary funds. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for those component units and Shelby County Retirement System, is based on the reports of the other auditors.

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 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 reports of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, 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 aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Shelby County, Tennessee, as of June 30, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof 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 December 11, 2003 on our consideration of Shelby County, Tennessee's internal control over financial reporting and on 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 on pages 13 through 28 and the budgetary comparison information on pages 95 through 97 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We and the other auditors 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 on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Shelby County, Tennessee's basic financial statements. The accompanying financial information listed as supplemental schedules in the table of contents includes supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and other information presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied by us and the other auditors and, in our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The statistical section as listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The statistical data has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied by us and the other auditors in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thompson Dunavant P.C." in a cursive style.

Memphis, Tennessee
December 11, 2003