



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of County Commissioners  
Wake County, North Carolina  
Raleigh, 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 Wake County, North Carolina "the County", as of and for the year ended June 30, 2004, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the County's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Wake County ABC Board "the Board". 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 the Board is based solely 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. The financial statements of the Board were not audited in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. 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 report of the other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report 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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of June 30, 2004, 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 September 24, 2004 on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements 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, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. 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 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 on it.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the County. The combining and individual fund statements and schedules 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.

The introductory and statistical sections are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the County. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures in our audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

**CHERRY, BEKAERT & HOLLAND, L.L.P.**

*Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, L.L.P.*

Raleigh, North Carolina  
September 24, 2004