



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake County Board Approves Financial Agreement with Register of Deeds

Enables county to more closely monitor office's financial transactions

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved at its regular meeting today an agreement with the Wake County Register of Deeds that will allow the county to conduct an annual audit of the office and review its financial materials at any time. This kind of enhanced oversight will help prevent theft and fraud, and identify ways to improve business processes.

“As a county, we’ve had the appropriate financial policies in place since 2010,” said Wake County Manager Jim Hartmann. “They just weren’t followed by the Register of Deeds Office. This Memorandum of Understanding requires the Register of Deeds to comply with those important procedures.”

Organization-wide, Wake County has taken steps to strengthen how it handles cash following the discovery that \$2.3 million was unaccounted for in the Register of Deeds Office from June 2008 to February 2017. The county has since provided additional in-person training to employees who handle cash, and efforts are underway to increase the county’s acceptance of credit and debit cards. In

addition, the county is working with internal and external auditors to plan further reviews of sites that accept cash.

Within the Register of Deeds Office, changes have been made to how cash is handled to tighten controls and prevent money from going missing. Register Charles Gilliam, who was appointed in April 2017, also plans to have the office audited at least once a year, conduct an information systems audit of the office's financial reporting system, and begin accepting credit and debit card payments for notary, birth, death and marriage certificates by December 2017.

To see county documents related to the Register of Deeds and the cash-handling review, visit wakegov.com/RODcash.

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