

**RICK SINGH, CFA**  
ORANGE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Orange County Property Appraiser's Office Passes Annual Financial Audit**  
*- Rigorous Review Determines Agency in Compliance -*

**Orlando, FL** – For the seventh straight year, the finances of the Orange County Property Appraiser's office (OCPA) – under the leadership of Rick Singh, CFA, since 2013 – have passed a rigorous review by independent auditors. In a report dated January 24, 2020, the firm of Cherry Bekaert, LLP, found that OCPA's financial statements were "presented fairly" and that the respective changes in financial position from year to year were "in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

"There is no greater responsibility than that of earning and keeping the public's trust where the stewardship of finances is concerned," said Singh. "We have failsafe accounting systems and prudent policies to ensure financial oversight and accountability. These annual audits are proof that we are following procedures set forth by Florida's Auditor General. We welcome the scrutiny and offer full transparency in return."

Despite record growth in Orange County during Singh's two terms – the county's tax roll has nearly doubled (89% increase) – OCPA has kept up with the demands of assessing more than 450,000 parcels of commercial and residential property, and some 62,000 business tax accounts. As the county has grown and the workload has increased, OCPA has stepped up key policies for best practices in operations. At the same time, OCPA has returned money to Orange County every year at an average rate of \$1 million per year.

In addition to the audits of financial management, OCPA undergoes an annual audit of the assessment roll, including an in-depth biennial audit. These audits are conducted by the Florida Department of Revenue. Without exception, OCPA receives high marks on these audits, meeting all guidelines and objectives in a smooth process, even though the OCPA team annually assesses one of the world's most unique counties boasting seven major theme parks, four water parks, and thousands of hotel rooms and timeshare units.

The budget for the Office of the Orange County Property Appraiser for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is \$18.3 million, and the staff of some 145 employees oversees a tax roll of more than \$208.2 billion. As it stands, OCPA has the highest value assessed per employee among similarly sized counties, due to its accountability and efficiency in operations.

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**About OCPA**

The Orange County Property Appraiser's office (OCPA) provides a fair and equitable tax roll, remarkable service and superior professionalism. The office also assists taxpayers with applying for homestead and other exemptions as well as understanding their Truth-In-Millage (TRIM) Notices each year. Under Rick Singh's leadership, OCPA has returned more than \$1 billion in value to the tax roll through compliance initiatives and assessed \$1 trillion in value since 2013. An award-winning agency, OCPA was recognized in 2019 with a Gold Stevie® Award and Customer Service Team of the Year by the American Business Awards®, and by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) with its prestigious "Certificate of Excellence in Assessment," earned by less than 1% of assessment authorities. The Agency has also been honored by the Center for Digital Government with a 2018 "Digital Government Experience" Award citing its effective online strategies for meeting constituent needs.

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