



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@osa.state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Criminal Forfeitures Report

Contact: Jim Levi, Office of the State Auditor, (651) 297-3683, Jim.Levi@osa.state.mn.us

ST. PAUL (11/18/2013) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Criminal Forfeitures Report, which provides information on the amount of cash and property seized subject to forfeiture by Minnesota law enforcement agencies where the final disposition was completed in 2012. The report lists and summarizes forfeiture incidents after final disposition to provide transparency to the public and to inform lawmakers on the nature and frequency of property seized subject to forfeiture.

Highlights from the report include:

- In 2012, 310 Minnesota law enforcement agencies reported a total of 6,851 incidents of property seized subject to forfeiture. This compares to 292 agencies reporting 6,338 incidents of property seized subject to forfeiture in 2011.
- Of the 6,851 forfeiture incidents reported, 5,290 involved seized cash, property that was sold, or an agreement that required monetary compensation to the agency. The total value of net proceeds from these forfeitures was \$6,681,319. Net proceeds derived from forfeitures ranged from \$1 to \$78,845. Net proceeds per forfeiture incident averaged \$1,263 in 2012.
- The agencies with 100 or more forfeiture incidents completed in 2012 were: the Minnesota State Patrol (948); the Saint Paul Police Department (690); DNR, Enforcement Division (441); the Minneapolis Police Department (281); the Dakota County Drug Task Force (149); the Southeast Minnesota Drug Task Force (143); the Rochester Police Department (141); and the CEE-VI Gang and Narcotics Task Force (101).
- In 2012, vehicles accounted for 54 percent (58 percent in 2011) of property seized, followed by cash at 33 percent (32 percent in 2011), firearms at 11 percent (8 percent in 2011), and other property at 2 percent (2 percent in 2011).

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- The most common criminal activities leading to seizure, forfeiture, and final disposition of property in 2012 were controlled substance and DUI-related, accounting for 89 percent of the forfeitures.

The complete report, which includes an executive summary, tables and graphs, can be accessed at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20131115.001>.

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.