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## **\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **State Auditor Otto Releases Best Practices Review** *~ An important topic for the law enforcement community ~*

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**ST. PAUL (2/16/2011)** – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Best Practices Review: Property and Evidence Room Policies and Procedures Manuals. The Review was conducted in response to property and evidence room issues raised during the Metro Gang Strike Force reviews. The Office of the State Auditor worked closely with key members of the Minnesota law enforcement community and other experts in writing this Review.

**“Had there been comprehensive policies and procedures for the Metro Gang Strike Force’s property and evidence room, irregularities would have been discovered much earlier,”** said Auditor Otto. **“The law enforcement community has a great interest in this Review because they want to be successful and maintain the highest standards when handling and tracking property and evidence.”**

Property and evidence rooms keep a collection of items that hold critical evidence for law enforcement agencies. The integrity of the recording and tracking of the evidence and the security of the room are paramount. **“This Review will serve as an important tool for the hundreds of Minnesota law enforcement agencies that have property and evidence rooms,”** said Auditor Otto.

The Review identifies best practices for internal controls when handling property and evidence. It also incorporates relevant Minnesota laws, including those passed in 2010 in response to the Strike Force situation. In addition, the Review contains sample forms to document and track property and evidence. The forms can be modified to a particular law enforcement agency’s needs.

**“Law enforcement agencies have tight budgets. For each of them to have to compile best practices for property and evidence room management and track law changes is time-consuming, and time is money. This Review will help law enforcement agencies save money and provide more effective service delivery,”** said Otto.

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**To view the complete report, go to:**

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20110215.003>.

**-- 30 --**

*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 18<sup>th</sup> State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at [http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto\\_hires.jpg](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>.*