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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**JAMES B. DUNN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**November 30, 2022**

**James B. Dunn, District Attorney General for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District advises that this week the State of Tennessee, Office of the Comptroller released an audit related to the Newport Utility Board. The audit was not favorable. The audit indicates a pattern of poor management decisions and lack of proper oversight by the controlling Board of Directors.**

**After a lengthy investigation by the Comptroller's office and reviewing the report in detail with the Office of the Comptroller, I have come to this conclusion. Although mismanagement is evident in this report, mismanagement in and of itself is not necessarily criminal. I find that there is insufficient evidence of a criminal violation sufficient to bring criminal charges and therefore I consider this matter closed.**

**JBD/snw**