



# County of Lackawanna Pennsylvania

*Office of the County Controller*

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## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

On Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM, Lackawanna County Controller Gary DiBileo will announce the implementation of a Fraud Waste & Abuse Hotline for Lackawanna County. A brief press conference will be held at the Lackawanna County Courthouse main entrance.

The Fraud Waste & Abuse Hotline is being created and maintained by the Lackawanna County Controller's Office in cooperation with the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office, Lackawanna County Commissioners' Office, PA Auditor General's Office, PA State Police Dunmore Barracks, and the Scranton Office of the FBI.

Controller DiBileo believes the creation of a fraud hotline is imperative because, according to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), 40% of fraud is detected by tips. According to the ACFE, U.S. organizations lose an estimated 5% of their revenue to fraud with governments being one of the most commonly victimized industries. Anti-fraud controls can serve as a deterrent, and organizations with fraud hotlines significantly cut their losses due to fraud.

The goal of the hotline is to enlist the public in aiding authorities in preventing and deterring the future fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars. Similar to nine other counties in PA, the hotline will give Lackawanna County residents an outlet to provide tips of suspected fraud, waste or abuse. When reporting tips, residents will be encouraged to provide as much information as possible, including contact information; however tips provided anonymously will be accepted.

The public may report tips by telephone, email, or regular mail to the County Controller's Office through the soon to be established Fraud Waste & Abuse Hotline link at [Lackawannacounty.org](http://Lackawannacounty.org). Controller DiBileo expects the hotline to be fully operational by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Identifying and reporting the fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars is a high priority in Lackawanna County as it affects every one of us in the long run.