NYCTL 2017-A TRUST

Financial Statements

For the Period from April 26, 2017 (Inception) to June 30, 2017

(With Independent Auditors' Report)

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Wilmington Trust Company NYCTL 2017-A Trust:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the NYCTL 2017-A Trust (the Trust), a blended component unit of the City of New York, as of and for the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017 and the related notes to financial statements.

Managements Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Trust's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the NYCTL 2017-A Trust, as of June 30, 2017 and the respective changes in financial position and its cash flows from the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 4, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Trust's financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule on page 12 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. The schedule is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated September 22, 2017, on our consideration of the Trust's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the Trust's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Touki & Co., CPAs, P.C.

Williamsville, New York September 22, 2017

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS JUNE 30, 2017

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following is a narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of NYCTL 2017-A Trust (the "Trust") for the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017. It should be read in conjunction with the Trust's financial statements, and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements consist of two parts: (1) management's discussion and analysis (this section) and (2) the financial statements.

The financial statements of the Trust, which include the statement of net position, the statement of revenues, expenses, and change in net position, the statement of cash flows, and the notes to the financial statements, are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"). The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, in which revenues are recognized in the period they are earned and expenses are recognized in the period they are incurred.

OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Trust was created on April 26, 2017 (inception) to acquire certain liens securing unpaid real estate taxes, water rents, sewer surcharges, and other charges, payable to the City of New York (the "City") and the Water Board, in exchange for the proceeds from bonds to be issued by the Trust, net of reserves funded by bond proceeds and bond issuance costs. The City is the sole beneficiary of the Trust and is entitled to receive distributions from the Trust after payments to bondholders and certain reserve requirements have been satisfied. The City is not entitled to cause the Trust to make distributions to it while bonds remain outstanding.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND OVERALL ANALYSIS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A summary of the Trust's assets, liabilities and net position and its activities as of June 30, 2017 and for the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017 is as follows:

Summary of Net Position:		2017
ASSETS: Current assets Cash and cash equivalents Investments Tax liens receivable	\$	166,302 709,313 19,126,849
Total current assets		20,002,464
Noncurrent tax liens receivable, net of allowance		28,839,703
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	48,842,167
LIABILITIES: Current liabilities Overages due to taxpayers	\$	558
Residual liability due to Water Board	_	13,089,551
TOTAL LIABILITIES		13,090,109
TOTAL NET POSTION		35,752,058
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$	48,842,167

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS JUNE 30, 2017

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND OVERALL ANALYSIS - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Summary of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position:

		2017
REVENUES: Tax liens received from the City of New York Interest on tax liens TOTAL REVENUES	\$	48,309,094 587,941 48,897,035
EXPENSES: Increase in allowance for doubtful		
accounts Additions to residual liability to Water Board TOTAL EXPENSES	_	55,426 13,089,551 13,144,977
NET CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$	35,752,058

During the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017, the Trust's total assets increased by \$48,842,167 resulting primarily from an increase in net tax liens receivable of \$47,966,552, reflecting the Trust's commencement of operations during the period. The increase in tax liens receivable resulted primarily from tax liens received from the City of \$48,309,094, accrued interest of \$587,941 offset by recording an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$55,426 and receipts in satisfaction of liens and costs of \$875,057. The \$13,090,109 increase in the Trust's liabilities resulted primarily from an increase in the residual liability due to the Water Board of \$13,089,551.

During the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017, total revenues were \$48,897,035 and consisted of tax liens received from the City of \$48,309,094 and interest on tax liens receivable of \$587,941. Total expenses of \$13,144,977 resulted primarily from the recording of an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$55,426 and an increase in the residual liability due to the Water Board of \$13,089,551.

Subsequent Long-Term Debt Activity:

The Trust issued debt subsequent to June 30, 2017 (Note 5) to fund its purchase of certain tax liens from the City, as well as to fund required reserve accounts and pay costs of issuance. Debt repayments will be made solely from cash collections received as a result of payments of tax liens or from proceeds from real estate owned as a result of foreclosure on properties with unpaid tax liens. While the bonds issued have a stated maturity date of November 10, 2030, the bonds will be repaid as funds are available from cash collections, generally quarterly. The expected maturity of the bonds is February 10, 2021.

* * * * *

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST STATEMENT OF NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2017

ASSETS: Current assets Cash and cash equivalents \$ 166,302 Investments 709,313 Current tax liens receivable: Principal 18,664,324 Accrued interest 462,525 Net current tax liens receivable 19,126,849 Total current assets 20,002,464 Noncurrent assets Noncurrent tax liens receivable: Principal 28,780,647 Accrued interest 114,482 Less: allowance for uncollectible accounts (55,426) Total noncurrent assets 28,839,703 excel 10TAL ASSETS \$ 48,842,167 LIABILITIES: Current liabilities 5 Overages due to taxpayers 558 Residual liability due to Water Board 13,089,551 Total current liabilities 13,090,109 NET POSITION: Unrestricted 35,752,058 Total Net Position \$ 48,842,167			2017
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NET POSITION: 35,752,058 Unrestricted 35,752,058 Total Net Position 35,752,058	Residual liability due to water Board		13,089,551
Unrestricted 35,752,058 Total Net Position 35,752,058	Total current liabilities		13,090,109
Total Net Position 35,752,058	NET POSITION:		
	Unrestricted		35,752,058
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION \$ 48,842,167	Total Net Position		35,752,058
	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$	48,842,167

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 26, 2017 (INCEPTION) TO JUNE 30, 2017

	 2017
OPERATING REVENUES:	
Tax liens received from the City of New York Interest on tax liens TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES:	\$ 48,309,094 587,941 48,897,035
OPERATING EXPENSES:	
Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts Addition to residual liability due to Water Board TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	 55,426 13,089,551 13,144,977
NET CHANGE IN NET POSITION	35,752,058
Net Position - Beginning of Period	
NET POSITION - END OF PERIOD	\$ 35,752,058

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 26, 2017 (INCEPTION) TO JUNE 30, 2017

		2017
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash receipts from:		
Cash collections		875,615
Total cash receipts from operating activities		875,615
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		875,615
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of investments		(709,313)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		(709,313)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		166,302
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period		<u>-</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS—END OF PERIOD	\$	166,302
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO CASH FLOWS FROM		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES: Operating gain	\$	35,752,058
Adjustments to reconcile change in net position to	Ψ	00,702,000
net cash provided by operating activities:		
Increase in allowance for doubtful accounts		55,426
Tax liens receivable		(48,021,978)
Accounts payable		558
Due to Water Board		13,089,551
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$	875,615

NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

NYCTL 2017-A Trust (the "Trust") is a Delaware statutory trust formed on April 26, 2017. The Trust is governed by a Declaration and Agreement of Trust dated April 26, 2017 between the City of New York (the "City") and the Wilmington Trust Company of Wilmington, Delaware (the "Owner Trustee"). Tax lien sales are authorized by Chapter 3 of Title 11 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. In accordance with a purchase and sale agreement between the Trust and the City, the Trust was created to acquire certain tax liens (Note 4) from the City in exchange for the proceeds from bonds issued by the Trust, net of reserves funded by bond proceeds and bond issuance costs.

The Trust's intended purpose is the collection of delinquent tax and utility receivables, including appropriate interest, fees and service charges, and the eventual distribution of net proceeds back to the originating City fund. Accordingly, the Trust is not intended to function as an independent business.

Although legally separate from the City, the Trust is an instrumentality of the City and, accordingly, is included in the City's financial statements as a blended component unit.

The City is the sole beneficiary of the Trust and is entitled to receive distributions from the Trust after payments to bondholders and certain reserve requirements have been satisfied. The City is not entitled to cause the Trust to make distributions to it. As certain tax liens secure unpaid water and sewer rents and sewer surcharges, the City and the New York City Water Board ("Water Board") have agreed that the City and the Water Board will share in the distributions and residual assets of the Trusts (see Note 2D).

The Trust does not have any employees. In addition to its interaction with various City agencies, the Trust's affairs are administered by the Owner Trustee, its program manager, tax lien servicer, paying agent and investment custodian.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. As a governmental activity the Trust reports its activities in business-type financial statements.

The financial statements of the Trust, which include the statement of net position, statement of revenues, expenses, and change in net position, and the statement of cash flows, are presented to display information about the reporting entity as a whole, in accordance with GASB standards. The financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

The Trust's net position is classified in the following categories: restricted net position and unrestricted net position.

The Trustee of the Trust upon duly executed direction from the City constitutes the Trust's highest level of decision-making authority. When resolutions are adopted by the Trustee that constrain fund balances for a specific purpose, such resources are accounted for and reported as committed for such purpose; unless and until a subsequent resolution altering the commitment is adopted by the Trustee. There is no authority under which net position may be internally constrained.

Net position that is constrained for use for a specific purpose, based on the direction of any officer of the Trust who is duly authorized due to executed direction from the City, to direct the movement of such funds, are accounted for and reported as assigned for such purpose unless and until a subsequent authorized action by the same or another duly authorized officer, or by the Trustee, is taken which removes or changes the assignment.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use for a specific purpose, it is the Trust's policy to use restricted resources first then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources constrained for debt service or redemption in accordance with the bond indenture are classified as restricted on the statement of net position.

- B. Cash equivalents include short-term investments with maturities of three months or less at date of acquisition.
- C. The Trust records tax lien receivables based on the amounts that are receivable for real estate taxes, water rents, sewer surcharges, and other charges. Interest that accrues on the outstanding balances as well as certain other costs, such as public notices that can be recovered from the taxpayer as part of the tax lien balance are capitalized. The Trust establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts by comparing tax lien receivable balances with the estimated fair value of the properties subject to the liens as provided by the City. The Trust also considers certain factors related to specific properties, such as environmental issues and where other tax liens have legal priority over the Trust's tax liens, in determining the adequacy of its allowance for doubtful accounts.
- D. The City and the Water Board have agreed to share in the distributions and residual assets of the Trust in accordance with the fixed percentages as of the first purchase of tax liens of 70.2% and 29.8% respectively. After the purchase of tax liens (see Note 4), the percentages to the City and the Water Board were adjusted to 77.5% and 22.5%, respectively. As the City is the sole beneficiary of the net position of the Trust, the amounts that would be due to the Water Board under this agreement are recorded as a general long-term liability for financial reporting purposes.
- E. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Trust's management to make estimates and assumptions in determining the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of additions and deductions in fiduciary net position during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.
- F. The Trust distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items in the preparation of its financial statements. The principal operating revenues include tax liens received from the City of New York and interest on tax liens. Major operating expenses includes addition to a residual liability due to Water Board.

NOTE 3 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Trust's cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in demand deposit accounts and money market funds. As of June 30, 2017, total cash and cash equivalents were \$166,302, of which \$0 was in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation coverage.

NOTE 4 – INVESTMENTS

As of June 30, 2017, total investments were \$709,313. All of the funds were invested in various short-term investment funds. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 the short-term investment fund was Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Shares, a money market portfolio that carries a rating of AAAm by Standard & Poors and Aaa-mf by Moody's Investor Services Inc.

NOTE 5 - TAX LIENS RECEIVABLE

A tax lien is a lien on a parcel of real estate located in the City securing unpaid real property taxes, assessments, sewer rents, sewer surcharges, water rents, and other City charges, such as environmental charges, Department of Housing Preservation and Development charges and business improvement district charges. In addition to these unpaid items, a tax lien also includes the costs of any advertisements and notices given in connection with the sale of the tax lien, that had become a lien against the property prior to the sale of the lien to the Trust, and interest and penalties accrued at various rates up to the time of sale of the lien to the Trust. In addition, a tax lien also includes a surcharge of 5% on all of the aforementioned amounts computed through the date of the sale to the Trust. The total of these amounts described in this paragraph represents the tax lien principal balance as of the date of the sale to the Trust. The City is required to redeem or replace any tax liens that are determined to be defective, in accordance with the provisions of the bond indenture. As the bond indenture has been discharged, the City may elect to reduce its distributions for defective liens.

NOTE 5 - TAX LIENS RECEIVABLE (Continued)

Subsequent to the purchase of the tax liens by the Trust, the tax liens accrue interest at the annual rate of 6% or 18% depending on the underlying assessed value of the properties to which the liens are attached, compounded daily. In addition, certain costs incurred by the Trust are eligible to be capitalized as part of the tax lien balance. Special rules for calculating tax lien amounts apply to bankruptcy tax liens.

The Trust has the right to foreclose and take title to properties for which related tax lien collection efforts are unsuccessful. Such properties are referred to as real estate owned ("REO"). As of June 30, 2017, the Trust did not have title to any properties.

The Trust has agreements with both Tower Capital Management LLC, Inc. and MTAG Services, LLC for servicing, managing, maintaining custody of certain documents, and collection activities on its tax liens.

The Trust may be unable to recover the amount of certain tax liens, including accumulated interest and capitalized expenses, when the value of the related property is less than the amount of the tax lien, where other tax liens have legal priority over the Trust's tax liens, or where the court awards a reduced expense amount. The Trust has recorded an allowance for uncollectible tax liens of \$55,426 as of June 30, 2017.

The changes in the tax liens receivable for the period from April 26, 2017 (inception) to June 30, 2017 were as follows:

	Gross tax lien receivable balance	
Balance as of April 26, 2017 (inception) Add: Tax liens received from the City of New York Accrued interest on outstanding lien Less: Receipts in satisfaction of liens and costs	\$ - 48,309,094 587,941 (875,057)	
Balance as of June 30, 2017	\$ 48,021,978	

NOTE 6 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Bonds Payable

On August 3, 2017, the Trust issued Tax Lien Collateralized Bonds, Series 2017-A for the principal amount of \$68,017,000.

The stated maturity of the bonds is November 10, 2030. However, the final payment of the bonds could occur earlier than the stated maturity date. The expected maturity is February 10, 2021. Collections on tax liens are used to pay accrued interest on the Class A bonds and then principal on the bonds. The timing of the repayment of the principal amount of the bonds and all accrued interest is entirely dependent upon the redemption of the tax liens or the liquidation of any real estate owned resulting from foreclosure.

The interest rate on the bonds is fixed at 1.87%. The closing date of the bonds was August 3, 2017. Accordingly, no interest expense or amortization of bond discount has been recorded through June 30, 2017.

Bond issuance costs were approximately \$2,187,498.

Additional Receipt of Tax Liens

In July 2017, the Trust received additional tax liens of approximately \$26,572,898.

NOTE 6 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS (Continued)

Distributions

In August 2017, the Trust made a distribution to the City of New York and the Water Board in the amount of \$26,222,152 and \$6,515,970, respectively, from the proceeds of closing of bonds payable on August 3, 2017. In addition on August 10, 2017, a distribution to the City of New York and the Water Board in the amount of \$15,638,912 and \$5,619,406, respectively, was made from the closing of the second sale of tax liens.

NOTE 7 – FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

The Trust categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure fair value of the assets. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in an active market for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; and Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

As of June 30, 2017 the trusts investments amount to \$709,313. The Trust's investment in Dreyfus Government Cash Management Institutional Shares is valued using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

NOTE 8 – LITIGATION

A number of parties contesting the foreclosure of tax liens previously sold by the City have challenged, among other things, (i) the power of the City to sell tax liens to the trusts, (ii) the power of the City to sell tax liens when some tax liens are less than a year old, (iii) the enforceability of tax liens when a tax certiorari challenge is pending, (iv) the power of the City to restore tax charges that were not previously billed, (v) the 5% surcharge and the applicable interest rate on the tax liens, (vi) the standing of the Indenture Trustee to foreclose on the tax liens, (vii) the priority of tax liens over other liens, (viii) failure by the City to give proper or adequate notice of the tax lien sale and (ix) that the upset price bid in a tax lien foreclosure auction in the amount of the Redemptive Value of the tax lien is fraudulent. In addition legal challenges to the collection of the tax liens have alleged violations of the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the New York General Business Law, the New York General Obligation Law, breach of contract and unjust enrichment. To date, no such action or challenge has been successful after completion of the appeal process. Certain parties have also asserted individual defenses against the enforcement of tax liens on properties, such as improper billing, full or partial payment prior to sale, the partial or full tax-exempt status of properties, the existence of forbearance agreements with the City or Trust, or inadequate service of process. The outcome of these challenges is not expected to have a material negative impact on the Trust, as the City is required to redeem or replace defective liens. No assurance can be given that similar or other actions will not be brought against the Trust.

NYCTL 2017-A TRUST SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE SCHEDULE 1 - CHANGES IN RESIDUAL LIABILITY DUE TO WATER BOARD FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 26, 2017 (INCEPTION) TO JUNE 30, 2017

Beginning balance at April 26, 2017 (Inception) Tax liens received from the City of New York Net change in net position	Residual Liability Due Water Board	
	\$ 12,946,837 142,714	
Ending balance at June 30, 2017	\$ 13,089,551	



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Wilmington Trust Company NYCTL 2017-A Trust:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States financial statements of the business-type activities of the NYCTL 2017-A Trust (the Trust), a blended component unit of the City of New York, as of June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Trust's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 22, 2017.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Trust's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses, or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Trust's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclose no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing</u> Standards.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> in considering the Trust's internal control and compliance. Accordingly this communication is not suitable for any other person.

Touri & Co., CPAs, P.C.

Williamsville, New York September 22, 2017