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## TREASURER RUSSELL REPORTS STRONG QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE IN THE SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT FUND

Treasurer Erick Russell today released the <u>latest quarterly update</u> for the Short-Term Investment Fund (STIF), showing the fund outperforming its benchmark during the quarter and over a one-year period, earning millions in interest for state and local governments.

STIF serves as an investment vehicle for cash held by the state, municipalities, state agencies and authorities, and other political subdivisions including quasi-public agencies. Its objective is to generate returns while protecting principal investments and maintaining liquidity so accountholders can instantly access money for cash-flow purposes.

For the quarter ending March 31, 2023, the fund earned 4.56 percent, 0.18 percent higher than similar funds measured by the iMoney Net benchmark, an independent data analysis tool for money market funds. This performance resulted in interest earnings of an additional \$9.7 million. Over the past year, the fund earned 2.85 percent, reflecting a 0.20 percent outperformance versus the benchmark, with additional interest earnings totaling \$33.9 million. The current STIF rate of 4.9% is higher than at any point in last 15 years.

"The Short-Term Investment Fund is an essential resource, especially for local governments, and I'm pleased to see it continue to live up to its promise," said **Treasurer Russell**. "At a time when there is nationwide attention being paid to stability in the banking sector, the fund is providing a dependable and effective option to safeguard the money of taxpayers and generate interest earnings for Connecticut's cities and towns."

STIF held no investment in the banks under the greatest strain during the recent run of failures, including Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, and Credit Suisse. Because of its focus on liquidity, the fund takes a cautious approach to its investments, limiting its bank exposure to the largest, best-capitalized financial institutions.

The fund is managed by the Office of the Treasurer, utilizing the agency's various divisions for insight into the markets, securities, and entities in which it invests. Representatives from the office have been meeting

with municipalities to raise awareness of the fund and directly answer questions, most recently presenting at an April meeting of the Government Finance Officers Association of Connecticut.

"I'm fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated colleagues working to ensure this fund is fiercely protecting the investments of municipalities, the state and other accountholders," said **Treasurer Russell**. "The Short-Term Investment Fund is a great example of how we can utilize the talent and expertise of the agency to support taxpayers across the state. I look forward to its continued success."

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## About the Office of the Treasurer

The Office of the Treasurer is charged with safeguarding Connecticut's financial resources through prudent cash management and debt management, with the State Treasurer serving as principal fiduciary for six state pension and nine state trust funds. Additionally, the Office enhances the state's fiscal stability through programs promoting financial literacy and college savings, and it leverages business partnerships to support the advancement of Connecticut's social and policy priorities, including combating gun violence and protecting our environment. The Office of the Treasurer is led by State Treasurer Erick Russell, the only Black elected state treasurer in the country. To learn more, visit portal.ct.gov/ott.