



April 2017

Dear Friend,

We are in the middle of the Florida Legislative Session. State Senators and Representatives are in Tallahassee crafting new state laws. It's challenging to get all sides to agree on what's best for the citizens of Florida.

Tax Collector offices are busy. Unreliable state equipment and the installation of new equipment makes the wait longer. We depend on state lawmakers to budget improvements so we can assist people more efficiently. If you have any feedback, I encourage you to contact the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation. Senator Bobby Powell, Jr. is the Delegation Chair and can be reached at (850) 487-5030.

Unpaid Taxes

We collect and distribute over \$3 billion in property taxes and fees each year. A small percentage of property owners miss the March 31 deadline. Some wonder if unpaid taxes impact agencies funded by tax dollars, such as public schools, the county, cities and fire rescue. The short answer is no.

State law requires us to hold a tax certificate sale. This system ensures taxing authorities get the money to fund their budgets and provide much needed services.

Bills that are unpaid on June 1 are included in the annual tax certificate sale. At this sale, buyers bid on the unpaid taxes. This allows us to collect all the taxes and remit to taxing authorities. Property owners have two years to purchase back the delinquent taxes. Otherwise, a Tax Deed Application may be filed. And the property owner potentially may lose their property unless all taxes are paid in full.

Penny Sales Tax

In the November 2016 election, Palm Beach County voters approved a penny sales tax increase. The Tax Collector is not involved in the collection of this sales tax. You will notice the increase when purchasing items at stores. The penny sales tax only applies to the first \$5,000 spent per transaction. For more information on how sales tax revenue will be used, visit www.pbcgov.org.

Payment Plan Deadline

Time is running out to join our money-saving property tax payment plan. The deadline to sign up for the Installment Payment Plan is April 30. Participants receive a discount of slightly under 4 percent. Quarterly installment payments for the 2017 property tax season are due:

- June 30, 2017
- September 30, 2017
- December 31, 2017
- March 31, 2018

Apply online at www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan.

Tax Facts

Did you know Palm Beach County's single largest taxpayer owed over \$100 million in property taxes in 2016? That's just one of the tax facts we share in our new 2016 Annual Report. This new publication explains where tax dollars went, agency achievements and future plans. For free copies, contact us at ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com. You can also request free copies of our *Tax Planner and Services Guide*, a calendar book packed with information about Tax Collector services.

The Problem with Hands-Free

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Unfortunately, distractions are everywhere. Car technology allows drivers to make hands-free phone calls, update social media and dictate text messages. However, hands-free is not risk free. The Tax Collector's Office prohibits employees from using cell phones behind the wheel when driving for business purposes. I encourage you to put your cell phone down as well.

Speaking of our agency, I want to share some good news. The Gold Coast Public Relations Council recently selected us for a communication excellence award. We won the Bernays Award for Best Social Media Campaign. I encourage you to follow @TAXPBC on Twitter and Instagram.

Wishing you peace, good health and happiness on Passover, Easter and always.

Best regards,



Anne M. Gannon