



March 2016

Dear Friend,

Spring is here and brings daylight savings, spring break and our annual *Report to Our Citizens for Fiscal Year 2015*. We expect this month to be very busy in all our offices. That means longer lines and wait times. That's a great reason to find out if you can use our online services. If you need to renew a vehicle registration, pay property taxes or business tax, you can do it online. You can also schedule your driver's license appointment and check wait times.

Annual Report

Our annual report, "*A Report to Our Citizens*" for Fiscal Year 2015 is the perfect opportunity for residents of Palm Beach County to learn more about our agency. This year's Report includes information on agency collections, tax distributions, operational progress, agency achievements and future plans. We also report on the top 10 largest tax bills in the county. If you'd like a copy please contact us at ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com today.

Get the Facts

Congress passed the REAL ID Act in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The goal of REAL ID is to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver licenses and ID cards.

There has been some confusion about REAL ID deadlines, what states are compliant, how long a driver license can be used for domestic travel and who's effected. Florida is a Real ID compliant state. A Florida REAL ID driver license/identification card is an accepted form of identification for domestic air travel. If you are a Florida driver and have not obtained your REAL ID license, you have until October 1, 2020. A Florida REAL ID driver's license has a star in the upper right corner. A valid U.S passport is also a REAL ID compliant document that can be used for domestic travel.

Note: A New REAL ID driver license/ID card cannot be obtained online.



Property Tax Deadline

March 31 is the last day to pay your current property taxes. Unpaid 2015 property taxes are delinquent on April 1. Pay your property taxes online to save time and money. Epay is fast, secure and convenient.

Catch a break on your 2016 Property Taxes. We offer a quarterly Installment Payment Plan which divides your taxes into four payments. Installment Payment Plan participants receive a discount of slightly under 4%. It is simple to enroll in the plan. Visit our website at www.pbctax.com/installment-payment-plan. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. April 30.

Spring Break

It's March and that means Spring Break is near. Palm Beach County schools are closed March 21-25. Many students visit our service centers during their break for their first driver's license. Nearly half of the first time drivers fail their written test. In response to those numbers our agency developed a "study buddy"... a free "In the Driver's Seat" app. The "In The Drivers Seat" app provides study materials, driving laws, safety tips and much more. Encourage the teens in your life to download "In the Drivers Seat" app today.

Distracted Driving Legislation

Everyone knows that texting while driving distracts drivers and causes accidents. Knowledge of that fact seems to do little to end the behavior. Since 2013, Florida law has classified texting while driving as a secondary offense. This means a driver cannot be pulled over for texting while driving, they must be speeding or driving recklessly.



The Florida Legislature has an opportunity to make us safer on the roads. They are considering a bill that would make texting while driving a primary offense. The bill doesn't stop at texting, it includes reading or sending a text, email or instant message while driving. Let's not wait for legislation. Join us and pledge to put the phone away and say no to distracted driving temptations.

Best regards,

Anne M. Gannon