



July 2019

Dear Friends,

Summer is in full swing... whether you are enjoying a day on the water, participating in the lobster mini season later this month, or planning a road trip, our office is here to help!

Before you hit the road, I want to share important information about a tougher new distracted driving law that aims to make our roads safer. Beginning July 1, texting while driving is a primary offense in Florida. In this issue, learn how the law will be enforced and the penalties drivers face if they are caught texting while driving.

As a reminder, our office is closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Warm wishes for a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday,

Anne

New Texting While Driving Law Takes Effect July 1

On July 1, Florida becomes the 44th state to make texting while driving a primary offense, meaning law enforcement can stop drivers solely for texting behind the wheel of a moving vehicle. Drivers are required to go totally "hands-free" in school zones and in construction zones when workers are present. Drivers will still be able to use their phone while their car is stopped.

The penalty for a first offense is \$30 plus court costs. A second offense is a \$60 penalty plus court costs and three points on the driver license. A crash resulting from texting would result in six points on a driver license. Drivers with additional points can have their license suspended. There will be a grace period through January to help inform motorists of the new law. Warnings will be issued during this time.



Renew Your Local Business Tax Receipt Online

Business owners can renew Local Business Tax Receipts (LBTR) from July 1 through Sept. 30. Avoid crowded offices, renew your LBTR on our website at www.pbctax.com.

Here are a few helpful tips for business owners:

- **Sale of Business** – If you sell your business, transfer the LBTR to the new owner. You must provide a bill of sale to the new owner and surrender the current original receipt to our office. The new owner will pay a transfer fee.
- **Out of Business** – If you close your business, please notify us immediately by emailing ClientAdvocate@taxcollectorpbc.com or complete and sign the “out of business” portion of your Local Business Tax Notice payment stub. Mail the stub to: Palm Beach County Tax Collector, P.O. Box 3353, West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3353.
- **Relocate Business** – If you relocate your business, transfer your LBTR. You must complete a new LBTR application, provide proof of zoning approval (if required) and surrender the current original receipt.

Tax Collector Office Presents Checks to Employee-Funded Charities

On May 28, Tax Collector Office employees proudly presented checks to Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League and Little Smiles of Florida, our 2017 and 2018 charity partners. Each charity received a check for \$8,108.00, from monies collected last year through employee participation in Dress Down for Charity. This program gives employees the ability to dress down every Friday in exchange for a weekly contribution through payroll deduction.

In addition to the support raised through Dress Down for Charity, both organizations received thousands of in-kind dollars from employee fundraising activities such as agencywide bake sales and supply drives. The charities were thrilled to receive the donations, and we are proud of our employees' generosity and big hearts!



Tax Collector Anne Gannon presents a check for \$8,108.00 in employee donations to Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League CEO Rich Anderson.