



September 2019

Dear Friends,

I want to remind you that two important payments are due Sept. 30 – the second payment of our 2019 Installment Payment Plan and local business tax receipt renewals. Both may be paid securely online at www.pbctax.com.

Speaking of online security... my agency is committed to helping you avoid internet fraud, scams, phishing and cybercrime. Quickly find out if a website is authentic using this free online tool whois.icann.org. The website disinfoportal.org tracks false information circulating on the web. Browsing social media? Easily verify if a Twitter account is a real person or a bot with Botcheck.me.

Finally, our offices are closed Monday, Sept. 2, for Labor Day. I hope you enjoy the long holiday weekend.

Best regards,

Property and Business Owners: Important Tax Payments Due

Are you a Palm Beach County property owner participating in our 2019 Installment Payment Plan? The second quarterly payment is due Sept. 30. View and pay your installment bill at www.pbctax.com.

Sept. 30 is also the last day for Palm Beach County business owners to renew their local business tax receipt without a penalty. There is usually no need to visit an office. Simply pay local business tax online at www.pbctax.com.

A reminder... any business selling merchandise or services must have a local business tax receipt and pay business taxes. This includes one-person and home-based businesses. A new application and fee is required for changes in location, ownership or business name. Failure to pay your local business tax may lead to civil actions and penalties of up to \$250.00. Don't let this happen to you!

New Short Term Rental Requirements

Palm Beach County's tourism industry provides billions of dollars in visitor spending and creates thousands of local jobs. Tourist Development Tax (TDT), also called "bed tax," strengthens the local economy by supporting the County's tourism industry.

Anyone who offers accommodations for short term rental (six months or less) in Palm Beach County must collect and remit 13 percent in total taxes from renters. Of these taxes, TDT is 6 percent. It is an add-on tax and paid by the renter in addition to state sales tax.



Palm Beach County's amended Tourist Development Ordinance provides new requirements for online hosting platforms and hosts offering short term rentals. The requirements include:

Online hosting platforms

- Must provide all hosts with information on local requirements regulating short term rentals
- Must also verify each property has a valid TDT account and local Business Tax Receipt (BTR) before the property is advertised (use our online TDT Registry at www.pbctax.com/tdt to verify accounts)
- Must return TDT collected to the host for remittance to the Tax Collector's Office

Hosts

- Must obtain a TDT and BTR before renting property on a short term basis
- Must file a monthly tax return and remit all taxes electronically to the Tax Collector's Office

For TDT support, visit www.pbctax.com/tdt or call our TDT Hotline at (561) 355-3547.

Tax Collector's Office Shines at Radiance Awards

The Tax Collector's Office was recently honored with two 2019 Radiance Awards, the highest possible achievement in communications excellence, among state public relations professionals. The Public Relations Society of America Sunshine District recognized the agency at its annual awards ceremony in July.

The Tax Collector's Office earned a Radiance Award for its 2019 *Tax Planner & Services Guide*. This award recognized the many design and readability improvements made to this popular publication.

The agency took home a second Radiance Award for "*Tax Talk with Anne Gannon*." The monthly newsletter educates clients about tax collector services, important tax deadlines and other agency news. The Tax Collector's Office has earned multiple local, state and national awards this year for communications and marketing excellence.