

December 11, 2017

Beaufort County Treasurer's Office Announces the Mailing of Collections Notifications

According to a recent news release, the Beaufort County Treasurer's Office announced that it will continue using a third party collection agency, [American Financial Credit Services \(AFCS\)](#), to assist in the collection of delinquent business personal property taxes. There is no cost to the County for this program and the taxes will be collected in full. AFCS' twenty percent (20%) fee is in addition to the delinquent taxes and is paid by the delinquent taxpayer. The Treasurer's Office also announced the mailing of 1,388 notification letters to pursue \$2,145,629 in delinquent taxes.

Individuals believing their business personal property debt to be in error or whose business has been permanently closed should contact the [South Carolina Department of Revenue](#) at bpproperty@dor.sc.gov or 803-898-5222 and select option 2 to resolve the account.

According to Beaufort County Treasurer Maria Walls, CPA, in addition to pursuing the taxes owed, the collection agency will assist delinquent taxpayers found to have been taxed incorrectly by educating them on the proper documentation to file, so the tax does not continue to be assessed each year. In just six months, AFCS has successfully collected over \$145,500 in delinquent taxes and assisted taxpayers in correcting estimations that led to higher values and erroneous tax amounts due to permanent business closures, thereby eliminating almost \$2 million in debt.

In the past, the annual tax sale event conducted by the Treasurer's Office was the primary and only delinquent collection program in Beaufort County. In 2014, with support from Beaufort County Council, the Treasurer's Office initiated the [Setoff Debt Program](#), which has successfully collected over \$1.2 million dollars; however, according to the Treasurer's Office, the program has limitations. Generally, businesses cannot be submitted through the Setoff Debt Program because it requires the use of a social security number, which is an identifier most businesses do not have.

For more information about delinquent property tax collection and the Treasurer's Office call 843-255-2600 or visit www.BeaufortCountyTreasurer.com.