



City of Dayton Offers One-Time Amnesty Program Before Aggressive Delinquent Tax Collection Efforts Begin

Release Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

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The Dayton City Commission today approved a one-time only amnesty plan for individuals and businesses who owe delinquent income taxes to the City.

The amnesty program, which forgives any penalty charges if the unpaid taxes and interest are paid in full, will be in effect until November 19, 2008. At that point, the City of Dayton's Finance Department will begin more aggressive efforts to collect unpaid taxes using new information now available from IRS and State records. Taxes collected after the amnesty period will be subject to additional penalty charges and other late fees.

The Finance Department is mailing postcards to all city of Dayton households informing them of the planned collection efforts and the one-time amnesty campaign.

"Thanks to tax records that we now have available from the IRS and the State of Ohio, we can now identify who may not have paid their proper City income tax payments over the past several years," said Bejoy John, the City of Dayton's Tax Administrator. "If you still owe City income tax from previous years, we strongly urge you to take advantage of this one-time amnesty period to avoid the extra penalty charges when we come to collect. Now is the time to wipe the slate clean."

Income taxes paid to the City are used in part to fund critical basic services like police, fire, EMS, street maintenance and waste collection.

"It is important for everyone to pay their taxes to support these important public services, which benefit all Dayton residents," John said. "Unfortunately, not everyone is paying their fair share. Citizens and businesses who have unpaid City income taxes can save precious dollars by taking advantage of the amnesty program and avoiding penalty charges. We would rather have *you* come to us than *we* come to you."

Anyone who lives within the city limits of Dayton must pay income tax regardless of where they work. If you work outside of Dayton and the tax you pay in the city where you work is less than Dayton's 2.25 percent income tax rate, then you owe the difference to the City of Dayton. (For example, if you live in Dayton but work in Centerville, which has an income tax rate of 1.75 percent, you must pay 1.75 percent to Centerville and .50 percent to the City of Dayton, for a total rate of 2.25 percent.)

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Anyone with unpaid City of Dayton income taxes who wants to avoid the costly collection process should visit the City's web site (www.cityofdayton.org/departments/finance) to download a City tax form to return. For anyone who is unsure if they should have paid income taxes to the City of Dayton in the past, a complete listing of taxable and non-taxable income is available at www.cityofdayton.org/departments/finance.

The Finance Department will offer extended office hours and customer service phone assistance during the amnesty period. The extended office hours are:

- 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday;
- 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of the month;
- 9:00 a.m.-Noon on Saturday.

The Finance Department's customer assistance offices are located on the first floor of City Hall, 101 W. Third Street, in the water bill payment area.

A customer service phone line (333-3500) also will be staffed during the extended hours above. In addition, the phone line serves as an interactive voice response system during non-work hours, allowing delinquent tax payments to occur 24-hours a day through electronic check, VISA or MasterCard.

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