1250 N. Eglin Parkway, Suite 101 Shalimar, FL 32579

> 310 Van Matre Ave. Building 210, Suite 179 Eglin AFB, FL 32542

120 Simpson Ave. Building 90320, Room 111 Hurlburt Field, FL 32544



302 N. Wilson Street, Suite 101 Crestview, FL 32536

701 E. John Sims Parkway Niceville, FL 32578

4012 Commons Dr. West, Unit 122 Destin, FL 32541

Customer Service Processing Center (850) 651-7300

BEN ANDERSON OKALOOSA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

<u>OkaloosaTax.com</u>

PRESS RELEASE

TAX COLLECTOR OFFICES CLOSED TO PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER ADVISED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020 Press Release 20-03 Contact Justin Gordon (media inquiries only) | <u>JGordon@OkaloosaTax.com</u> | (850) 651-7603

Shalimar, FL – Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 all Okaloosa County Tax Collector Office lobby locations will be Closed to the Public until further advised. While office locations will be closed to the public, customers can continue to process transactions online at <u>OkaloosaTax.com</u>, by phone at 850-651-7300, and through the mail. Customers can also take advantage of drop boxes located at each branch office. According to Ben Anderson, Okaloosa County Tax Collector, "In light of the current public health situation regarding the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and after several discussions with our Local Officials and State Partners, it's in the best interest of the office to close to direct public contact until further advised. "

Combined, the Okaloosa County Tax Collector's office serves over 30,000 customers per month, making it one of the largest customer-facing operations within the county. "Our dedicated team works in close proximity to one another and with the public, making all highly susceptible to contamination and further spreading of the virus. By closing our office lobbies, it will help limit potential exposure of our staff and the public." In addition to closing office lobbies to the public, all appointments for driving tests, concealed weapons permit, hazmat, and passports are cancelled until further notice.

The Tax Collector's office is aware that some types of transactions cannot be completed online, and that it may be necessary to speak to one of their tax collector team members. In those cases, they urge customers to call the office. "In anticipation of an influx of calls, we've worked to bolster our phone operations. We understand customers want to talk directly to a live customer service agent when conducting their business over the phone; and that's the type of service we offer," states Anderson. Customers wishing to reach the Tax Collector by phone should dial 850-651-7300 or **#TAX** (#829) from their mobile phone.

Services that can be completed online or over the phone include, but are not limited to:

- Vehicle Registration (Tag) Renewals
- Vessel Registration Renewals
- Trailer Registration Renewals
- Handicap Parking Placards

- Property Tax Payments
- Business Tax Receipt Applications and Renewals
- Hunting and Fishing Services

On March 15, 2020, Governor DeSantis signed an executive order authorizing the extension of expiration dates of Driver License and Identification cards with expirations from 3/16/2020 – 4/15/2020 for thirty (30) days. As a result, the delinquent renewal fees during the extension period will be waived.

Please follow us on our social media platforms and check our website, <u>OkaloosaTax.com</u>, for updates. For questions, please call 850-651-7300 or dial **#TAX** (#829) from your mobile phone.

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