



Press Release

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

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DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION CRACKDOWN BEGINS

Balch Springs & Seagoville, Texas . . . In an effort to crack down on delinquent taxpayers, **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP** (Linebarger) has mailed **final warning letters** to property owners who have failed to pay their delinquent property taxes on behalf of local governments. This letter serves to urge taxpayers to pay what is owed or face serious consequences. Collection letters have been mailed to **427** Balch Springs property owners who owe **\$298,502** in delinquent property taxes and **337** Seagoville property owners who owe **\$163,447**. Taxes for both cities are collected by Dallas County.

John R. Ames, Tax Assessor / Collector for Dallas County, stated, "Our cities, schools, special districts, and the County all need tax revenue to fund the essential local services that are so important to our citizens. From the parks where citizens play and exercise and the libraries where they read and learn, to the schools where our children are educated and the protections we gain from our police and fire departments — every single tax dollar assessed is critical to local governments to maintain these public services."

Ames continued, "We recognize that a record **98.60%** of our taxpayers have already paid their taxes on time; nevertheless, in order to maintain a fair and equitable tax system, my office will remain steadfast in holding delinquent taxpayers accountable for paying their property tax bill. Aggressively pursuing the delinquent taxpayers who have failed to pay their taxes is only fair to the vast majority who do pay."

Bridget Moreno Lopez, Managing Partner for Linebarger's Dallas Office, added, "Our law firm makes every effort to work with delinquent taxpayers, so we hope those receiving the warning letter will take notice of the urgency of the matter and pay their delinquency before the law firm intensifies its collection activities through **lawsuits, foreclosures, or business seizures**. Don't risk losing your property — contact our law office today."

Property owners have **ten days to pay their taxes** to the Dallas County Tax Office or else they could be subject to a lawsuit or seizure. Linebarger files thousands of lawsuits and sets hundreds of properties for foreclosure and sale each year on behalf of its clients. **Businesses take the risk of having their assets seized** if they fail to pay their personal property taxes. Linebarger visited 3,250 local businesses this past year targeting \$29 million in back taxes. All types of businesses have been the subject of these collection enforcement efforts, including:

Barber Shop	Dry Cleaner	Dentist Office
Interior Design Store	Nail Salon	Auto Body Repair Service
HVAC Repair Company	Pharmacy	Fuel Station
Communications Provider	Equipment Leasing Company	Thrift Store

Ames encouraged citizens to take action by expressing, "While our objective is for business owners to maintain their operation and for homeowners to protect their property, businesses need to pay their taxes now, before we come knocking on their doors alongside law enforcement officials. Despite the fact that we would prefer to work with delinquent taxpayers to help them meet their tax obligations and avoid efforts that would take their property, when the taxpayer turns a blind eye or plainly refuses to pay, then legal enforcement measures are used as a final plan of action. In the long run, simply waiting for a lawsuit or seizure will only cost a taxpayer more time and money that could be expended elsewhere"

Senior citizens, aged 65 or older, and disabled residential homeowners (as determined by the federal Social Security Administration) may secure their homesteads against tax suit and sale by filing a deferral affidavit. This deferral affidavit can only be obtained and filed at your appropriate appraisal district office. The qualification for this deferral is determined by the local central appraisal district. However, even with an approved deferral, the tax will continue to accrue and must be paid before the property is sold or transferred.

Ames stressed, "**Pay your taxes now.** We are optimistic that our taxpayers will pay attention to our **final warning.** Our local governments depend on their citizens to do what is honorable and pay their fair share of taxes so governments can continue to provide the beneficial public services upon which our citizens rely."

Taxes can be paid online by visiting the Dallas County website at www.dallascounty.org/department/tax.

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