



Board of Commissioners

Jason W. Boyd, Administrator

lakecountyohio.gov

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Recent Efforts Conducted by Lake County Treasurer's Office in Regards to Tax Collection

The Lake County Treasurer's Office is reporting that, as of this year, they have already contacted delinquent taxpayers for the first half collection period. In the past, delinquent taxpayers were not contacted until after the second half collection.

In addition to working with the Lake County Information Technology Department for assistance in collecting taxpayer contact information, Treasurer Mike Zuren spoke with Treasurers in other Ohio counties to garner knowledge of their processes. "Taking a proactive approach to assisting delinquent homeowners with options and grant programs has significantly increased tax collections. The Lake County Treasurer's Office is here to help residents who are facing financial difficulties. We offer a variety of repayment options and diligently strive to share grant program information with homeowners," stated Zuren. He explained how repayment options were offered to those individuals along with information regarding various grant programs that are available

"Treasurer Zuren's initiative is a bold and worthy endeavor," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck. "His resourcefulness and efforts are helping to reduce delinquency and increase tax dollar collections for the benefit of Lake County and its residents."

The Treasurer's Office identified (3) groups of delinquent taxpayers: 1) homeowners who recently paid off their mortgage, 2) mobile homeowners, and 3) taxpayers who had been current in 2020-2021. In all, approximately 1,800 taxpayers/parcels were contacted. The response was significant and as of May 4, 2022 they collected \$862,000 with an estimated expense for this additional research of around \$3,000.

"The Board is extremely grateful to our Treasurer, Michael Zuren, for really picking up the ball and running with it in regards to this issue," added Commissioner John Plecnik. "The results speak for themselves as indicated by the rapid response he has received in just 30 days."

Last December, Zuren researched programs that would assist struggling homeowners. After meeting with Lifeline (an organization dedicated to helping low-income residents in Lake County), they reviewed a new initiative called "Save the Dream Ohio". This program may have some funds available for homeowners facing additional financial hardships like utilities and homeowner's association fees.

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For more information about tax delinquency, repayment options, or if you are eligible to participate in a special program, you can reach the Treasurer's Office at (440) 350-2516 or visit their website at lakecountyohio.gov/treasurer. Office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

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