

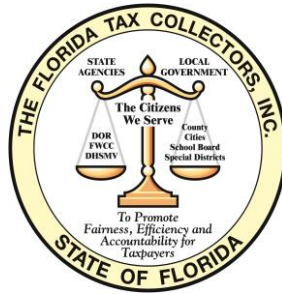
FLORIDA TAX COLLECTORS, INC.

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October 5, 2012

Martin County Tax Collector Ruth Pietruszewski Receives State Award for Excellence *One of 10 Tax Collectors to Earn 'Legacy Award'*

Tallahassee – Ruth Pietruszewski, Tax Collector for Martin County, has earned a special designation for excellence in the field of financial operations. A judging panel performed a detailed review of the Tax Collector's financial records, practices and use of technology in considering Pietruszewski for the honor.

"The Legacy Award is one of the highest achievements the Florida Tax Collector's Association can award a local Tax Collector," said FTCA President Maloy of Leon County. "The judging process was arduous and included a detailed review of the financial functions of the Tax Collector's Office. I am very proud to say that Honorable Pietruszewski has earned the designation. She represents the very top echelon of elected officials."

Last year, Pietruszewski earned the Excellence in Financial Operations Award after demonstrating proficiency in four areas of expertise: Innovation & Automation; a Perfect Annual Audit Report; Customer Focus; and Budgeting. For the 2012 Legacy Award, Pietruszewski demonstrated that the office had further enhanced its financial operations.

A five person judging panel made up of government financial executives from throughout Florida reviewed the Tax Collector's processes as related to the four areas of competency.

"The citizens of Martin County can be very proud of Honorable Pietruszewski for the award-winning manner in which she operates the Tax Collector's Office," Maloy said. "The panelists' review of her office went far and above reviewing her perfect audit report. The review included methods utilized by Honorable Pietruszewski to deliver service to the people she serves and consideration of the technological innovations she has developed and put into place."

Florida Tax Collectors collect and distribute over \$27 billion in local public funds each year. Tax Collectors carry out State of Florida work at the local level on behalf of Florida's citizens.

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