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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2009

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### New Driver License and Identification Requirements

#### “Be in the know, before you go,” says Pinellas Tax Collector Deputy

COURTHOUSE CLEARWATER: The Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) has published another in a series of important public information reminders about changes to driver license laws as the state proceeds to implement the Federal REAL ID Act.

“Be in the know, before you go to one of our offices to renew your driver license or identification card,” says Pinellas Deputy Tax Collector, Sam McClelland. “Call our e-Service Center **727.464.7777** where we answer phones with real people, or go to the website [www.taxcollect.com](http://www.taxcollect.com) and find out about new rules regarding proving your identity and proving your residential address. If you arrive, as you have in the past, with your old driver license in hand and payment ready, you are going to be frustrated when you have to return for a second trip with the documentation Florida law now requires.”

The state began transitioning driver license responsibilities to the counties a number of years ago, and presently in Pinellas, the Tax Collector is the chief issuer of driver licenses and identification cards. “Mainly, we want to stress the importance of official or original documents, of birth certificates, social security cards, and particularly for women, documentation of name changes due to marriage or divorce”, says McClelland. “Proving your address is another new challenge for customers. Florida is complying with the Federal REAL ID Act, and you need to find out how this law affects you by calling our office or visiting our website, or visit the state’s website directly at [www.flhsmv.org](http://www.flhsmv.org)

A January 28, 2009, news bulletin from the state covers proof of residential address, as follows:

#### STATE REQUIRES NEW DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN A DRIVER LICENSE, ID CARD

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reminds customers seeking a new or renewed Florida driver license or identification card to be prepared to provide proof of their residential address and social security number. Driver licenses and ID cards now show the customer’s residential address. A customer’s mailing address, such as a Post Office Box number, will no longer be shown on driver licenses and ID cards.

Customers visiting a driver license office must bring proof of their residential address. Examples of acceptable documents include:

- deed
- monthly mortgage statement
- residential rental/lease agreement
- utility hook-up (or work order) dated within 60 days of the application

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Customers must also provide proof of their social security number. Examples of acceptable documents include:

- Social Security card
- tax return
- W-2 form
- pay check stub
- DD-214 (military discharge document)
- school record

*The document must include the customer's Social Security Number to be accepted.*

The Department provides a list of acceptable documents online at [www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/address.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/address.html).

To verify identity, customers are reminded that they must still present two forms of identification. Visit [www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/faqkeys.html#USC](http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/faqkeys.html#USC) for lists of acceptable documents for U.S. citizens and non-citizens.

To help customers prepare them for their next office visit, DHSMV provides frequently asked questions and answers related to the new documentation requirements online at [www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/newslaws\\_Oct2008.html](http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/newslaws_Oct2008.html).

The changes are a part of the Department's preparation for implementation of the Federal Real ID Act. Recent changes in Florida law will move the state toward compliance by January 2010. The Real ID Act is part of a nationwide effort to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver licenses and ID cards and reduce fraud. For Real ID information, visit [www.flhsmv.gov/realid/](http://www.flhsmv.gov/realid/).

For information about Driver Licenses or other Tax Collector services, visit the website at [www.taxcollect.com](http://www.taxcollect.com) or call the award-winning e-Service Center at 727.464.7777 where we "*Answer Phones With Real People*", an important part of how we deliver "*World-class Service, Anytime, Any Place*".

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