



October 19, 2018

City of Alachua
C/O Mayor Gib Coerper
PO Box 9
Alachua, FL 32616

Dear Mayor Gib Coerper,

Several years ago, I became aware of a company that was doing audit work to assist Property Appraisers in detecting homestead exemption claims that were unwarranted and assisting Property Appraisers with tangible property returns to assure that everyone is being treated both fairly and equally. That company, Tax Management Associates (TMA), has successfully performed these services across the country as well as here in Florida.

The Property Appraisers Office has entered into an agreement with TMA to perform that same work in Alachua County. This program has no upfront costs for any of us, it works on a percentage basis of what is actually collected. In brief, this process will work as follows. TMA will identify properties that should not be getting the exemption(s) they are currently claiming. The Tax Collector will bill for the appropriate taxes. When the tax bill is paid, the collector will distribute the monies to the correct taxing authorities and to TMA. This program has been very successful in other counties and we expect it to generate many new dollars for Alachua County as well.

In order for the Tax Collector to be able to pay TMA, each taxing authority has to agree that it is ok to make that percentage payment from the funds they are going to receive. The Tax Collector and I, along with the County Attorney Office, have developed the enclosed memorandum of understanding (MOA) to formalize that approval. We have had discussions with the County, the City of Gainesville, and the School Board to make sure that we are doing things right. They have all signed their MOUs.

Now, I need your assistance and participation. We need 100% of the tax jurisdictions to consent and sign the MOU. The monies collected will be outside of the normal budget process. They will be new and extra dollars. Enclosed please find 3 copies of the MOU for your jurisdiction. Please execute all three and return two copies to me. I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please let me know what I can do to help facilitate your process and thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Ed Crapo, ASA, AAS, CFA
Alachua County Property Appraiser