

**COUNTY OF RICHLAND
OFFICE OF COUNTY TREASURER**



DAVID A. ADAMS
COUNTY TREASURER

P.O. BOX 11947
Columbia, SC 29211
(803) 576-2275
TDD (803) 748-4999

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, 7 July 2005

ENORMOUS RESPONSE TO ABANDONED PROPERTY AUCTION

Columbia, SC - The first ever Forfeit Land Commission (FLC) sealed bid auction yielded a huge response from the public for sixty-nine abandoned properties.

A property goes to tax sale if the taxes have not been paid. If the property then does not sell at the county tax sale or the subsequent sealed bid sale, it goes to the Forfeit Land Commission. The sixty-nine properties in the auction accumulated in the FLC between 1993 and 2002. The Richland County Commission is composed of the County Auditor, the Registrar of Deeds and the County Treasurer.

1,354 bids were received by the Treasurer's Office totaling \$638,436.74 last week. The winning sixty-nine bids amounted to \$115,754.48.

"Sixty-nine properties are back on Richland County's tax rolls that hadn't had owners and did not generate a penny in taxes," County Treasurer David Adams said. "Thanks to the enormous interest of the public, and our staff's hard work, those outstanding tax bills are now paid."

The sealed bid auction for FLC property was the first of its kind in Richland County. Information on the auction and the abandoned properties were made available on the Treasurer's website for two months prior to the bid deadline. There was no other form of advertising to generate interest.

"This many properties do not normally accrue with a Forfeit Land Commission. For fairness, we wanted everyone to have access to these properties and the public interest shows we were successful," Adams concluded. "We employed technology and common-sense to resolve a unique problem for Richland County."

No properties were added to the Forfeit Land Commission after the 2003 or 2004 tax sales. There are no properties remaining in the Richland County Forfeit Land Commission.

###

For More Information, Contact:
David Adams, 803/576-2275