

Richland County Sheriff's Department

LEON LOTT,
Sheriff



NEWS ADVISORY

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Contact: Sgt. Cowan
(Work) 576-3036
(Pager) 988-6018

Treasurer David A. Adams
(Work) 576-2275

RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF - COUNTY TREASURER TO BRING VIOLATORS TO TASK

The Richland County Sheriff's Department and the Richland County Treasurer's office are working to reduce the amount of delinquent car taxes that go unpaid each year. This new pro-active program will place the Sheriff's Departments Handicap Parking Patrol on the front lines of addressing this issue. The Handicap Parking Patrol will work closely with Richland County Treasurer David Adams, who in 2004 began a vigorous campaign of collecting delinquent car taxes in an effort to increase the counties revenue and to hold people responsible for paying their share of taxes.

Beginning April 4, 2005, the Richland County Sheriff's Department Handicap Parking Patrol will expand its duties to begin looking for license tag violations. The process will mirror the Handicap Parking Patrol's present procedures that searches for handicap parking violations:

- A tag violation is spotted and a photograph and report are completed
- A letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle which states:
 - The tag violation (s)
 - Asking them to come in and explain the violation (s)
 - Assigns a court date and deadline to settle issues associated with the violations (delinquent taxes, unpaid registration or highway department fees)

"This proactive effort and partnership will crackdown on those persons who are driving illegally, who are not paying their share of taxes and will also increase the counties revenue," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. "Through this program we can increase the efficiency of our department by reducing the number of suspended tags, unlicensed vehicles and uninsured drivers on our roadways that we deal with every day. This program will be funded and endorsed by County Council utilizes our resources and develops a collaboration

between county agencies to improve the quality of life for Richland County citizens”.

“In 2004 we instituted procedures to guarantee every taxpayer paid their fair share – nothing more and nothing less,” Richland County Treasurer David Adams stated. “Our office simply wants to use the tax records to enforce collections on bills that had previously gone unpaid. By enforcing lawful taxes, we believe that eventually the impact can be a lower burden on those who are doing their duty and meeting their tax obligations,” concluded Adams. “We will continue to find new ways to enforce car tax collections on people who skirt the system and by partnering with the Sheriff’s Department we are doing just that.”

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