$1.5 Million Recovered

4 April 2006
For Immediate Release

Columbia, SC - In April of 2005, the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the Richland County Treasurer's Office developed an "Expired Tag" program. The purpose of this program is to locate expired license tags and collect delinquent funds owed to the county from these motorists. The partnership between the Sheriff's Department and Treasurer's office has set a precedent in the Southeast for not only recovering money but in collaboration to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Through the use of trained volunteers, the partnership has recovered $850,000 in delinquent taxes.   As of April 4, 2006 we have identified 3,386 expired tags in Richland County and overall, a total of 6,033 expired tags from across South Carolina. In addition to the recovery and identification, by the volunteers patrolling the communities, the Treasurer's Office has collected $705,000 in delinquent taxes. The pressure that has been placed on those citizens who have been trying to cheat the system, the cooperation between the Treasurer's office and Sheriff's Department and the dedication of our citizen volunteers has collectively brought Richland County $1.5 million in unpaid taxes. On April 4, 2006 at 6:00 PM, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott and Richland County Treasurer David Adams, will present a check for $1.5 million dollars to Richland County Council at 2020 Hampton Street.

"This proactive effort and partnership is cracking down on those persons who are driving illegally, who are not paying their share of taxes and is increasing the county's revenue," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. "Through this program we are increasing 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 is funded and endorsed by County Council and utilizes our resources and develops a collaboration between county agencies to improve the quality of life for Richland County citizens".

"People lose faith in their government when laws aren't enforced and they have to foot the bill for people cheating the system," said Richland County Treasurer David Adams. "We have been innovative in working together to make sure our honest taxpayers aren't cheated anymore. This has been a fantastic success. You can drive around Richland County and see that there aren't delinquent tags everywhere. This is the beginning of exposing all types of tax cheaters and trying to decrease the tax burden on honest taxpayers by making sure everyone pays their fair share."

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