



# MEDIA RELEASE

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Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs  
Release Number: 08/04/11-001 DIPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, August 4, 2011

## City of Hopewell

300 North Main Street  
Hopewell, VA 23860

### **HOPEWELL TREASURER SELECTS SANDS ANDERSON LAW FIRM TO ASSIST WITH COLLECTING DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES**

**Hopewell-** VA. Hopewell City Treasurer Teresa L. Batton has selected the law firm of Sands Anderson PC to work with her office to commence legal proceedings aimed at collecting delinquent real estate taxes owed by taxpayers in the City. The Sands Anderson legal team working with the Hopewell Treasurer's Office will include Stefan M. Calos, who recently served as interim Hopewell City Attorney, James E. Cornwell, Jr., currently leading collections efforts in Petersburg and other localities, and paralegal professional Kimberly A. Cregger.

According to an agreement with Sands Anderson, the firm provides legal services related to the collection of delinquent real estate taxes for 20 percent plus other expenses, which include but are not limited to, postage, long distance and required advertisements. The fees charged by Sands Anderson are paid for by the delinquent taxpayer, and the firm will deposit all payments collected into an interest-bearing trust account designated for the City. The Treasurer will then receive the balance of funds in the account after deduction of fees and advanced costs. Additional fees may be involved if the property is auctioned, increasing to 25 percent of the amount collected with a minimum fee of \$2,500 per parcel plus costs.

Founded over 160 years ago, Sands Anderson has 65 lawyers practicing among its offices in Richmond, Christiansburg, Fredericksburg, McLean, Virginia and Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2011, it was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in Virginia Lawyers Weekly annual listing of the state's largest law firms.

For additional information, please contact the City Treasurer's Office at (804) 541-2240 or via email: [tbatton@hopewellva.gov](mailto:tbatton@hopewellva.gov)

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## **HOPEWELL CITY TREASURER SELECTS TAXING AUTHORITY CONSULTING SERVICES, P.C. (TACS) ATTORNEYS AT LAW TO ASSIST WITH COLLECTING DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AND UNPAID BUSINESS TAXES**

**Hopewell- VA.** Hopewell City Treasurer Teresa L. Batton announces the implementation of a new delinquent tax collection program. These efforts will focus on the collection of delinquent personal property taxes and unpaid business taxes. Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C. (TACS) Attorneys At Law will commence proceedings aimed at collecting delinquent personal property, business license, machinery & tools, and meals and lodging taxes owed by taxpayers in the City. TACS is a Virginia law firm that concentrates its practice representing treasurers and tax collectors.

The taxes that are being turned over to TACS are severely delinquent and need to be collected. The fees charged by TACS are paid for by the delinquent taxpayer and the City will pay no fees for this service. In collecting these accounts, TACS and the Treasurer may pursue all means of collection authorized by law, including the attachment of wages or other assets, the seizure of personal property or filing suit in court. The Treasurer will also be taking additional steps to collect more recent delinquencies that remain unpaid. To avoid these actions, and the additional 20% collection fee, taxpayers must take prompt steps to resolve their delinquent accounts. For additional information, please contact the City Treasurer's office at (804) 541-2240 or via email at [tbatton@hopewellva.gov](mailto:tbatton@hopewellva.gov).

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