



A MESSAGE FROM CITY OF WADSWORTH AUDITOR, CATHERINE FIX, CPA  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CITY INCOME TAX COLLECTION CHANGES  
**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016**

Earlier this year we began an evaluation of the income tax administration services we receive from The Central Collection Agency (“CCA”). We appreciate the effective service CCA has provided to the City. We have a long history of affiliation with CCA – we joined them in 1980 – so this process was not undertaken lightly. During the 35 years we have been with CCA, we have periodically evaluated the contract to determine if we should we stay with them, bring tax administration in-house, or switch to another provider.

On June 29, 2015, Wadsworth City Council, upon my recommendation, passed Ordinance 15-057 which authorized me to enter into an agreement with The Regional Income Tax Agency (“RITA”) for municipal income tax administration services and collection. The move from CCA to RITA is effective January 1, 2016.

RITA (a Regional Council of Government) was formed in 1971 by several Cuyahoga County communities and their main office is in Brecksville. They currently provide tax administration services for more than 240 municipalities throughout Ohio. We expect our affiliation with RITA will result in improved service, more convenience, and overall a better income tax experience for you.

Please know that we are not making this change just for the sake of change. There were many compelling reasons besides the level of service for the City to transition to RITA. The financial impact is also very important – we expect not only cost savings to the City, but increased revenue and improved cash flow.

In the coming months, we will be disseminating information regarding this important change. Look for information in your utility bill or on your email bill notification, on the City website, and on the Community Channel. **Also, later this year, all registered taxpayers will receive a welcome letter from RITA which will provide some details regarding the transition.**

The first thing you may notice is you will no longer be receiving a packet of tax forms in the mail. You will receive only a postcard reminding you to file. From the questions we get each year during tax season, we know that many of you prefer to file your taxes online, and RITA’s website is geared to online filing. Also, if you come in to have your taxes prepared by us, we will now be doing your taxes online.

While we cannot anticipate every situation that may be a cause of concern for you, we will continue to provide local income tax assistance through the City Finance Office. Our Income Tax Officer, Cindy Nelson, is located on the first floor in City Hall. Cindy can be reached at CNelson@WadsworthCity.org or at 330.335.2745. We encourage you to check the City’s website for updates, or watch your monthly utility bill for more information. Beginning January 1, 2016, RITA customer service representatives will be available to answer your questions at 800.860.7482 or [www.ritaohio.com](http://www.ritaohio.com).

Two items that will not change:

- (1) The income tax rate of 1.4% that became effective on January 1, 2012 will not change with the City’s conversion from CCA to RITA; and
- (2) **If you are a senior citizen** or have been otherwise exempt from filing a city tax return due to your only source of income being pension, disability, social security or interest / dividend income, this is not changing; you are still exempt from having to file an annual return.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this 2016 change in local income tax collection, please contact our Income Tax Officer, RITA, or your personal tax preparer.

Thank you,

Catherine C. Fix, CPA

Auditor, City of Wadsworth

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