



July, 2011

Dear Friend,

Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>! Independence Day celebrates the birth of our nation and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Our July 4 traditions include barbeques, parades, flying our flag, picnics, and my favorite ... fireworks! I wish each of you a happy, healthy and safe July 4 holiday.

Independence Day is a great reminder of the sacrifices so many of our fellow citizens have made for our freedom. Our troops make the ultimate sacrifice in foreign lands under service to our nation. The United States Congress has asked everyone in the US to participate in helping our anti-terrorism campaign. After 9.11, a federal law was passed that requires every resident in this country to document their identity and become what the law calls Real ID compliant. This means that each of us must bring specific and original documents in order to get or renew a driver license or state identification card. A gold star is placed in the upper right hand corner of a Real ID compliant license or ID card. You only have to do this once in your lifetime.

You cannot become Real ID compliant online. You must come into one of our service centers.

I appreciate that the Real ID requirement can be a complicated task. That's why our office created the "License To Drive" toolkit. This handy toolkit includes a checklist of federally required documents, sources to locate copies of lost documents you must have, frequently asked questions, flyers, posters and easy to install web banners for those home owner associations with webpages. All these documents are readily available at [www.taxcollectorpbc.com](http://www.taxcollectorpbc.com). Just click on the "License To Drive" button on the home page.

A quick word about going to one of our service centers. For those of you who like to plan ahead, you can make an online appointment for up to three months in advance. For those of you who are going to be a "walk-in" ... we will post real time wait times on our website for each of our service centers this month.

I also want you to know that there is no need to panic. You have time. The federal law provides for compliance to be phased-in over a period of years. Anyone under 50 years

of age has until December 1, 2014 and anyone over 50 has until December 1, 2017 to become Real ID compliant. After these dates, anyone who is not compliant will not be permitted to board a commercial flight or enter a federal building. No one is exempted from this federal law, including military or law enforcement.

Independence Day is a great reminder that freedom comes with a price tag. Our troops across the world are fighting our battle on the frontlines. So honestly, when you think about it, in comparison, becoming Real ID compliant is such a small sacrifice that we have each been asked to make.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne".

Anne M. Gannon