

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Chatham County Tax Commissioner Sonya L. Jackson Emphasizes First-Term Results, Ongoing Work on Behalf of Local Citizens

**SAVANNAH, Ga. (March 27, 2024)** – Chatham County Tax Commissioner Sonya L. Jackson is focusing on her impressive accomplishments and extensive work on behalf of local citizens as she looks to the future. A highly strategic, inclusive and results-oriented leader, Jackson has made a number of important improvements and key optimizations to streamline services for Chatham County residents during her first term at the <u>Chatham County Tax Commissioner's Office</u>.

"My goal is to make this office run seamlessly for every taxpayer in Chatham County," she explained. "We've reduced the average wait time at all of our locations to less than five minutes and have cross-trained our staff so that citizens can take care of everything they need, from paying property taxes to renewing auto tags, at one site."

Since being elected Chatham County Tax Commissioner in 2020, Jackson opened convenient satellite offices in Port Wentworth and on Wilmington Island in order to bring more services to areas where citizens live. She also implemented a new appointment

system, launched a customer ticketing procedure, created separate processes to handle bulk auto tag requests for car dealerships and added convenient new self-serve Georgia Tag Renewal Kiosks at Kroger locations on the southside, Wilmington Island, Pooler and Berwick, all of which have dramatically reduced the average wait time at local tax offices.

Jackson also launched curbside service at the popular Eisenhower Drive office, established a Customer Call Center in order to better serve local citizens and added online updates about wait times at each Chatham County Tax Commissioner Office location to the office's website. In addition, she launched the Tax Commissioner University (TCU), offering quarterly classes that provide education as well as access to tax-related information, and expanded communication initiatives with local residents through social media, email and other platforms.

"It has been an incredible honor to serve the citizens of Chatham County during my first term as Tax Commissioner," she said. "We've made a number of strategic improvements since I took office in 2021, emphasizing service, responsiveness and transparency. I want to continue to expand access to tax-related services in Chatham County and to be even more accessible and more responsive to the needs of our citizens."

In the future, Jackson plans to add more satellite offices, expand the Georgia Tag Renewal Kiosk program and make the Chatham County Tax Commissioner's website even more user-friendly and informative.

A proud graduate of Savannah High School and Savannah State University, Jackson is a respected project manager and technology expert who has extensive experience with a wide range of accounting and financial systems. She is Chatham County's first African-American Tax Commissioner and has enjoyed widespread support for her accessibility, transparency and commitment to citizens.

Citizens are invited to contact the Chatham County Tax Commissioner's Office at **(912) 652-7100** or **tax@chathamcounty.org** with any questions.

## ABOUT THE CHATHAM COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE:

Under State law, the Chatham County Tax Commissioner is responsible for the administration of the billing and collection of current and delinquent ad valorem taxes due the State of Georgia, Board of Education, Transit Authority, Chatham County, Chatham County municipalities, and Special Service District on real and personal property as well as mobile home taxes, public utility taxes, timber taxes, heavy duty taxes, street lighting fees,

and solid waste fees. In addition, the Tax Commissioner is responsible for the billing and collection of ad valorem taxes and Title Ad Valorem Tax due the State of Georgia, Board of Education, Transit Authority, and Chatham County municipalities at the time of title application and tag renewal. Under the leadership of Chatham County Tax Commissioner Sonya L. Jackson, the Tax Commissioner's Office operates three convenient offices to serve citizens, including a Downtown Savannah location at 222 W. Oglethorpe Ave. #107, a Southside Savannah location at 1145 Eisenhower Dr., and a West Chatham location at 295 Police Memorial Dr. For more information, please contact (912) 652-7100 or tax@chathamcounty.org. Learn more: tax.chathamcountyga.gov.



Sonya L. Jackson Chatham County Tax Commissioner