Cutting Through the Red Tape at the County Level

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Overview

• County Department Organization

• Differences in County Requirements

• State Created Red Tape

• Tips on How to Cut Through the Tape
County Department Organization

- Not All Counties Use the Same Departmental Organizational Structure
- Not All Departments Have the Same Function
- Not All Similar Departments Have the Same Name
Different County, Different Structure

- Fulton
  - Dept. of Environment and Community Development
    - Permits
  - Dept. of Public Works
    - Water Fees
  - Financial Services
    - Incentives
Different County, Different Structure

- Gwinnett
  - Department of Planning and Development
    - Issues Permits
    - Issues Fees
    - Issues Incentives
Same Requirement, Different Department

- Water & Sewer Fee
  - Department of Planning and Development (Gwinnett)
  - Department of Public Works (Fulton)
- Water Business Office, Division of Public Utilities (Athens-Clarke County)
Same Requirement, Different Department

Occupation Tax Certificate

- Licensing and Revenue Office (Gwinnett)
- Business License Division (Cobb)
- Internal Audit and Licensing Division (DeKalb)
- Finance Department (Athens-Clarke County)
Same Department, Different Name

- Business License Division (Cobb)
- Business Occupation Tax Division (Fulton)
Same Program, Different Department

- Business Incentives
  - Department of Planning and Development (Gwinnett)
  - Department of Economic Development (Cobb)
  - Financial Services (Fulton)
  - Development Authority (DeKalb)
Differences in County Requirements

- Same Type of Fee, Different Requirements
  - Building Permit Fee
  - Occupation Tax Certificate
  - Alcohol License
Building Permit Fee

- 37¢ per square foot for new construction (Gwinnett)

- Multiply construction cost by .0005 (DeKalb)

- $6 per every $1000 of construction cost (Cobb)
Occupation Tax Certificate

- Cobb: type of business and total gross receipts
- Fulton: flat fee
- Athens-Clarke County: based on number of employees
Alcohol License

- Cobb: calculated by amount sold
- Fulton: flat fee and requires board approval
- Athens-Clarke County: based on type of alcohol the business is selling
State Created Red Tape

- Occupation Tax Certificates Contingent on Professional License Approval

- Alcohol License issued by the Department of Revenue

- Immigration Requirements
Immigration Requirements

- **Affidavits**
  - E-Verify Public Contractor Affidavit
  - E-Verify Private Employer Affidavit
    - 500 or more employees, January 1st
    - 100 or more employees, July 1, 2012
    - 11 or more employees, July 1, 2013
  - SAVE Affidavit

- Secure and Verifiable Documentation
Tips on How to Cut Through the Tape

• Review Department Functions

• Define Department Functions

• Create a County Requirements Checklist for Businesses

• Create a New Business Packet

• Create an Online Format for Submission
Avoid Red Tape In Your County