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**ALACHUA
COUNTY**
BICENTENNIAL

Alachua County Community and Administrative Services

Gina Peebles
Assistant County Manager – Chief of Staff

September 25, 2025

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1 St.
Gainesville, FL 32601

RE: Repayment of Surtax Funds

Dear Honorable Commissioners:


On December 16, 2024 via email and January 14, 2025 in person, our Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Board Liaison, Gina Peebles, notified you of the undisputed findings from the City of Archer's independent audit. The audit identified significant issues with the commingling of Infrastructure Surtax revenues, which resulted in restricted surtax funds being used for general operating expenses.

The audit confirmed that more than \$738,000 in Infrastructure Surtax revenues disbursed by the Department of Revenue between FY 2017 and FY 2024 was commingled with the City's general operating funds. The precise amount of misspent surtax revenue remains undetermined. While the City has acknowledged this issue and taken steps toward remediation, they have recently been the victim of an embezzlement incident, further underscoring the importance of strong financial oversight.

In light of these circumstances, the Oversight Board has requested the County Commission send a Chair letter to the City of Archer requesting a formal update on their progress in addressing the audit findings and implementing corrective measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact Board Liaison, Gina Peebles, should you have questions on this request.

Sincerely,


Eric Drummond, Chair
Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Board

cc: Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Board
Patrice Boyes, Outside Counsel