PRESS RELEASE

Expect Delays at Clerk of Courts' Office

The Florida Legislature recently voted, and Governor Rick Scott signed a budget, to cut the Clerk of Courts budgets by 31M, statewide, translating into a 7% decrease in funding for each county clerk. Over the past 3 years, the Clerk of Courts in Collier County has reduced its budget by approximately 25%.

In that period, the number of clerk employees has been dramatically reduced, satellite offices have closed and customer services eliminated or cut back. It is expected that in the next fiscal year, the citizens of Collier County will experience more of the same.

The Clerk's office is already dealing with delays in the Recording Department due to increased volume and reduced staffing. That scenario is expected to play out in all court departments, especially Civil.

The Clerk is currently looking at ways to deal with the additional budget cuts while maintaining a level of access and service that is acceptable, although it will not be the same level of service that customer are used to receiving in Collier County.

Dwight reflected "I'm afraid it is going to get worse in the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1st. I ask citizens for their patience and understanding **AND TO EXPECT DELAYS**!

Link to NBC-2 News Report, April 25, 2012

http://www.nbc-2.com/story/17687669/2012/04/24/budget-cuts-to-cause-clerks-office-delays

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