



Lynnette T. Riley
Commissioner

State of Georgia
Department of Revenue
Legal Affairs & Tax Policy
1800 Century Blvd., N.E., Suite 15107
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
(404) 417-6649

Frank M. O'Connell
Director

November 2, 2015

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: An Intangible Recording Tax Protest and Claim for Refund per O.C.G.A. § 48-6-76(c) in the amount of [REDACTED] filed upon recording a Security Deed on July 22, 2015, with the Clerk of Superior Court, [REDACTED] Parties are [REDACTED] (Borrower) and [REDACTED] (Lender) w/MERS (Grantee)

Dear [REDACTED]

I have carefully considered your Protest and Claim for Refund of intangible recording tax per O.C.G.A. § 48-6-76(c) pursuant to the above-captioned matter. Your Protest and Claim for Refund plus all associated documents were considered in the review. It is my determination that your Claim for Refund in the amount of [REDACTED] is denied. The amount may not be refunded.

O.C.G.A. § 48-6-60 Definitions, at (1), (2) and (3), defines a "Collecting officer," an "Instrument" or "security instrument," and a "Long-term note secured by real estate," respectively.

O.C.G.A. § 48-6-61 provides in pertinent part that security instruments must be filed and the intangible recording tax paid no later than ninety days from the date of execution by the parties. In this case, the date of execution of the instrument was February 13, 2015. The tax was not paid within ninety days and thus a bar to any action for collection on the instrument was automatically imposed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-6-77(a).

The bar to collection was removed by the subsequent recording of the instrument, payment of the tax imposed under O.C.G.A. § 48-6-61, and the payment of interest and a penalty imposed under O.C.G.A. § 48-6-77. In this case, the ultimate recording of the instrument in [REDACTED] occurred on July 22, 2015, or more than five months from the date of execution.

[REDACTED]
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Adequate follow-up procedures would have alerted you and allowed more than enough time for payment of the tax well within the 90-day period. That such due diligence could have prevented the assessment of the penalty, which was thus reasonably within the control of the taxpayer, tends to establish that the failure to pay the tax was not inadvertent.

A copy of this letter is being provided to the Clerk of Superior Court, [REDACTED] so that the money collected and deposited into an escrow account per O.C.G.A. § 48-6-76(b) may be distributed according to law.

Please be advised that any taxpayer whose Protest and Claim for Refund is denied, in whole or in part, has the right to bring an action for refund of the amount so claimed and not approved against the collecting officer who received the payment and recorded the instrument. The action may be filed in either the Superior Court of the county in which the instrument was recorded or in the Georgia Tax Tribunal no later than 60 days from the date of the denial, and served pursuant to law.

Sincerely,


Frank M. O'Connell

FOC/RJL/me

cc: Clerk of Superior Court, [REDACTED]