City Launches Online Business License Portal and Announces Changes to Business License Renewal Period

In an effort to improve tax and license administration services and enhance customer service, the City has launched an online business portal and has moved to a calendar-year business license renewal period. All business licenses are expected to be renewed in January 2023.The new online business portal will allow businesses to conveniently apply for, renew and pay their business license payments totally online at https://santabarbara.bizlicenseonline.com/

Avenu Insights and Analytics will administer the new system on behalf of the City's Finance Department. As part of the change, the City has transitioned to a calendar-year based business license tax program. The change begins with the 2023 license tax year. All business licenses will be required to be renewed in January 2023. Thereafter, all business license tax certificates will expire on December 31 of each year. Businesses that have already paid into 2023 will be eligible for a tax credit on the 2023 tax obligation that requires renewal by January 31, 2023. Businesses should have received a letter in early December 2022 explaining the new process.

The City has worked toward identifying ways to improve efficiency in how it delivers service to the community. This change marks the Finance Department's latest effort at streamlining processes to improve customer service. Businesses will still be able to apply, renew and pay for their business license in person at City Hall at 735 Anacapa Street, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm and on alternating Fridays, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.