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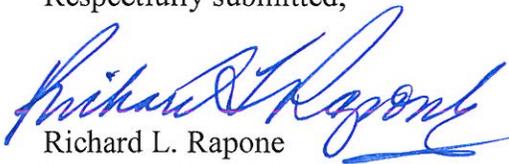
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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Lawrence County Commissioners amended ordinance No. 37 of 2002 that provided for changes to section three, four, eight, and eleven of the “Hotel Room Rental tax” that will go into effect on September 1, 2016. The ordinance effects all accommodations to the public such as a bed & breakfasts, cabins, hotels, motels, inns, guesthouses, rooming houses or homesteads. An increase from three percent (3%) to five percent (5%) tax is hereby imposed on the consideration received by each transaction of renting a room or rooms to transients. A penalty of one and half percent per month shall be imposed upon the operator of the establishment for failure to timely collect and remit the tax. Please note that establishments will be audited to ensure all guidelines are being followed. Certified letters will be mailed to all current establishments that will include the guidelines, registration, exemption certificate/statement and the monthly report.

Said tax collected will be distributed to the Lawrence County Tourist Promotion Agency (TPA) to be used for marketing purposes as per the new state law, Act 18. Janet Falotico, Executive Director of the TPA explained the goal is to promote Lawrence County and contribute to the promotion of the State of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania fell out of the top ten most visited states due to lack of marketing dollars on the state level. To help reverse this staggering statistic, the extra two percent (2%) will go toward national and larger regional advertisements, county marketing materials, website updates, and attendance at expos with the ultimate goal to bring attention to the area.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard L. Rapone  
Lawrence County Treasurer