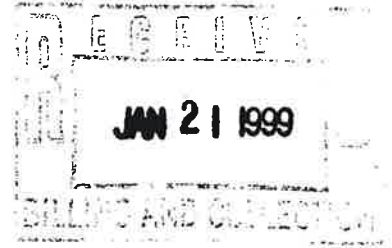




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# STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROBERT A. BUTTERWORTH

January 20, 1999

Mr. Wayne Bowers  
City Manager  
City of Gainesville  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32602-0490

Dear Mr. Bowers:

It is with great pleasure that I forward the enclosed check to help maintain and improve roads in your community. This check represents your city's share of a recently approved settlement fund to resolve the petroleum products price-fixing case filed by the State of Florida.

The lawsuit was filed against the major oil companies on behalf of Florida consumers and units of government that purchased refined petroleum products during the period July 9, 1969, to March 20, 1981. The settlement was long in coming, but the federal court's recent approval cleared the way for the funds to be distributed.

In approving the settlement, the federal court determined that, given the large number of potential claimants and the size of the settlement fund, the fairest and most practical approach was to distribute the money to Florida cities and counties on the basis of population. In selecting this approach, the court required that all settlement funds be used only for road construction or maintenance. Based on your prior written assurances that any funds received as a result of this settlement would be used only for these purposes, we included your city in calculations for distribution of the settlement funds. The enclosed check is the result of those calculations, and it is essential that these funds be used in the manner directed by the court.

This settlement sends a strong message to the petroleum companies that price-fixing will not be tolerated in Florida, and it is appropriate that the settlement funds will be used to improve the roads of Florida's communities. If you believe your city has received this check in error or that you cannot use the funds in a manner consistent with the court's order, or if you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Trish Conners, chief of my Antitrust Section, at (850) 414-3600.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Butterworth  
Attorney General

Enclosure