



Pictured, left to right: Siraj Ali, Vice President; Hassanali Momin, President; Tony Luna, Comptroller's Audit Division Director; Amin Mohd, Comptroller's Audit Division Settlement Specialist; Shouket Karowadia, Senior Vice President; Ahmed Hasora, Director; and Shahid Khoja, Director.

## Tax Compliance – Fundamental Customer Service

*By Steve Koebele, Attorney & Government Relations Counsel*

STAFFORD, TX – The GHRA Board of Directors invited Tony Luna, the Texas Comptroller's Audit Division Director, to GHRA's offices to continue positive talks that will further enhance Texas tax law compliance. Amin Mohd, a Settlement Specialist in the Comptroller's Office, joined Mr. Luna. The Comptroller is the chief tax collector, public accountant, revenue estimator, and treasurer for all of state government. The meeting included leaders from the other affiliated trade associations – the Northern Texas Trade Association, South Texas Merchants Association, and the Greater Austin Merchants Association – representing the other major Texas metropolitan areas.

“We are thankful that Comptroller Susan Combs and her staff appreciate the many roles – cashier, marketer, janitor, stocker, compliance officer, bookkeeper, and more – that are simultaneously performed by a typical convenience store owner,” said Hassan Momin, President of GHRA. “While store operations require a diverse skill set, detailed focus on proper tax accounting is fundamental to great customer service,” added Momin.

Mr. Luna, a seasoned professional who has served in the Comptroller's Office for many years, gave important retailer tax compliance examples, including:

- All tax collected by a retailer, must be forward/remitted to the Comptroller.
- Properly identify taxable versus non-taxable products.
- Maintain good bookkeeping records.
- Keep records open for Comptroller inspection for at least four years.
- Timely file tax reports to the Comptroller.

“Achieving 100 percent bookkeeping accuracy and full compliance with Texas tax laws is a central goal of the GHRA membership,” remarked Shouket Karowadia, Senior Vice President of GHRA. The meeting conversation was positive and productive. In concluding the meeting, Karowadia said, “thank you, Tony, for the beneficial partnership that the GHRA enjoys with you and all the fine professionals who serve in the Comptroller's office.”

GHRA leadership is committed to open communication with government administrators and hosts meetings with relevant government stakeholders to promote legal compliance and strengthen relationships with government leaders, state agencies, and other business associations.