

Lee, Chris

From: Treasurer
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 2:51 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina
Cc: Lee, Chris; Chambers, Mark; Coggs, Milele
Subject: Budget Amendment Hearing Follow Up
Attachments: Property Tax Payments Made 2023 Tax Levy.xlsx

This is sent in response to the question you posed at the Budget Amendment Hearing regarding Amendment 14 as to when and how many property tax payments were made during the last current tax collection period.

The City Treasurer's Office does not support defunding the mailing of property tax payment receipts. This office has made a concerted effort over the last forty years to discourage constituents from coming downtown to City Hall to pay their annual December Combined Property Tax Bill. Indeed, during the last current tax collection period, mid-December 2023 to early February 2024, only 7.76% of tax payments were made in person at City Hall. This success was predicated upon taxpayers getting a property tax payment receipt mailed to them, if their payment was made by any of the other payment options available other than coming to the office and paying in person.

Last current tax collection period, this resulted in the mailing of 152,930 Automated Property Tax Payment Receipts. Please note that many citizens rely on the property tax payment receipt for income tax purposes. The abrupt change of discontinuing the mailing of the receipts could conceivably be chaotic. Furthermore, since the current tax collection period crosses over two fiscal years, unequal treatment between taxpayers would result. 2024 property tax payments made by citizens in December 2024 would receive a property tax payment receipt, while those paying in January and February 2025 would not receive receipts due to a lack of funding in the 2025 budget. The attached Excel spreadsheet delineates the property tax payments made during the 2023 tax levy current tax collection period. Using last current tax collection period data, 79,083 taxpayers would receive a mailed property tax payment receipt and 73,847 would not. This is inherently unequal.

While the City Treasurer's Office does not support defunding the mailing of property tax payment receipts, if it is the will of the Administration and Common Council to defund and discontinue the mailing of property tax payment receipts, it would be wise to fund the mailing of the 2024 property tax bill receipts and denote by budget footnote that there would be no funding available in the 2026 budget for this purpose. This would allow adequate time to develop a communication plan during the course of 2025 to inform constituents that 2025 property tax payment receipts will not be mailed, but will solely be available electronically from Tyler Technologies Resident Access application in a PDF format, which is scheduled to be brought on line in November 2024. This is preferred to discontinuing a long standing practice with little warning. DPW's discontinuation of curb side Christmas Tree pickup comes to mind!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Coggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

SPENCER COGGS
City Treasurer