

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Barb Taber <barbdtaber@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite
Subject: City taxes

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Hello Ms Currin ,

I have read the article in The Baltimore Sun Paper regarding a tax increase and feel I must write with my opinion.

My husband and I live in the house I grew up in . I returned 20 years ago to my home after my parent's both passed away. I love this home, which has been in my family since 1938, but sadly my husband and I plan to move in the coming future.

We are both retired, living on fixed incomes. Our approximately 1300 sq ft. home in the Belvedere Square area is taxed @ \$4,000.00 per year!

That and the water bills which are going up yearly, make it almost impossible to live comfortably in Baltimore city. Maryland taxes my husband's pension \$ 250.00/ month. Our city taxes are outrageous, the crime rate is over the top and now the city wants to make taxes higher.!!! We are being robbed! Is it any wonder people don't want to live here !?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara D. Taber
807 Evesham Ave. 21212

Sent from my iPhone

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: rHONDA hAWKINS <ronsuehawk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

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I am disabled, trying very hard to hold onto my home. I have applied for the homeowners tax credit for the last four years, and it was granted; however, not this year. Based on my form SSA1099, I was denied. The 1099 nor the tax credit application take into account that Social Security Disability payments are my only income; without regard to my expenses. I live alone with no other financial help. I am not eligible for SNAP benefits, I have to pay cash when I go grocery shopping which includes transportation as I cannot afford a car/insurance. Other expenses include BGE, the ever increasing water bill, phone bill, internet to keep me connected to the outside world, and cable to keep me company. I also have pets, which are my only companions; they too need to be feed, in addition to occasional vet bills, which is another expense.

I oppose the property tax increase.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Hawkins
ronsuehawk@yahoo.com
1821 W. Lombard St.
Baltimore MD 21223

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: david walter <wirefoxy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: This letter is in opposition to the proposed Property tax increase

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This is my second letter since I found a few typing errors in my first draft. Many people currently have reduced incomes or no income. Baltimore taxes are now almost twice the cost as the County tax rate. City water bills use to cost less than \$20 every three months. Today, city residence pay \$50,\$100, or more monthly even if the property they own is vacant. City residences cannot afford to pay for all of the cities wasteful spending. Some people are going to kill themselves over this coronavirus and their lack of money and this city tax increase could help to kill them. Furthermore, many owners of city properties must pay the full tax bill with no homesteader's tax credits. They could pay more money in taxes for a building that is falling apart than owners who live in beautiful homes and receive tax credits. Business property owners many whom had no revenue for months could go broke trying to pay all of the cities' expensive bills. Many of these business owners cannot get any financial grant assistance even though they applied. I am opposed to any city property tax increase at this time. David Kowalevich

Anonymous

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: info <info@blackrabbitllc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Currin, Marguerite (City Council)
Subject: Re: Baltimore City Notice of Proposed Real Property Taxincrease

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Re: Baltimore City Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax increase

Dear Esteemed Members of the Baltimore City Council,
c/o Marguerite.currin@baltimorecity.gov

Thank you for granting time to these notes prepared on the proposed Real Property tax increase. As a long-time Baltimore resident and believer in this city, it is my firm understanding that decisions like this are short-sighted and run people out of Baltimore. I can't even begin to count how many people I know, full taxpayers and wage earners, who have left Baltimore city to live across the county line to avoid high taxes and high water bills. There are other ways to collect necessary revenue that does not penalize Baltimore City residents as this does. For example, Baltimore City residents are being charged for the "amenity" of "county water" even though we process it for both city and county residents. Why is there not a small, (35 cents, full speed EZ Pass, nobody would have to stop or slow – Chicago is a great example of this) toll for county residents when they take any of the main arteries into the city, from the county, to access city amenities like the stadiums, restaurants, waterfront, science center, National Aquarium, and jobs that are city-located? Why is there only a one-way amenities surcharge flowing into the county leaving a discrepancy that the city aims to fix by increasing city real estate taxes? We have people coming into Baltimore every day for jobs, adding wear and tear to the infrastructure that is being repaired by the funding provided by Baltimore City residents, not the county residents who commute on them. County residents then turn around at the end of every working day, taking their real estate tax payments with them to another jurisdiction. How is this fair? How is this something that falls on our shoulders every year? Furthermore, we are in the middle of a pandemic and financial crisis. Over 25% of America's workforce is unemployed. This is a ridiculous time to be raising taxes.

On behalf of my friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors,
Thank you for taking the time to consider this seriously.