



Property Assessment

Board of Review

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 105
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Phone: 313-628-0722
Fax: 313-224-4576
www.detroitmi.gov

DATE: January 5, 2023

TO: Detroit City Council

RE: Homeowners Property Tax Exemption (HOPE) Deadline Change

Honorable City Council,

In accordance with MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act, the City of Detroit offers a tremendous opportunity to our low-income homeowners that are struggling with the payment of their property taxes. It has truly been a non-stop effort with cooperation from other city agencies such as HRD who has been engaged in door knocking campaigns and Renew Detroit who has brought more attention to the program for those seeking home repairs and let's not forget about our communities partners, with the assistance of the Rocket Community Invest Fund, radio and television advertising and press, the process of filing has become more accessible to homeowners that may not have been able to submit an application in the past for various reasons. And we can't leave out the efforts between the City of Detroit and the Wayne County Treasurer that constantly aids in the prevention of property tax foreclosure. Since its inception March of 2020, more than 11,000 home have been save through the Pay As You Stay (PAYS) program (PAYS sunset is July 1, 2023).

Finally, I want to thank this Honorable Body for providing leadership and hands on opportunity through outreach, events that were scheduled through your offices and the continued opportunity for myself and those that you have appointed to the Property Assessment Board of Review to come out, meet, speak and educate the community.

Yes, there has been a tremendous amount of support in getting the word out and with that effort there has also been a tremendous result.

Over the past several years the Board of Review has seen an increase in applications received largely due to all the efforts that have been mentioned. With that increase has come certain challenges that are not unsurmountable, but if not addressed create unwanted issues.

I am requesting to present and demonstrate why the 2023 HOPE deadline needs to be moved from December 11, 2023 to October 1, 2023.



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During the presentation I will address several factors regarding the potential change including:

1. Appropriate section the state statute which gives the City Council the authority to use a date other than the day before the last meeting of the Board of Review.
2. The growth in the number of applications received.
3. The importance of understanding the demographic supported.
4. The areas of the process that is disrupted due to the large number of last-minute filings.
5. The disparity between those that file earlier in the year versus last-minute filings which can often result in a negative decision.

The presentation will be prepared and distributed to all Council Members prior to the presentation on Wednesday at Budget, Finance and Audit Committee.

I humbly thank this Honorable Body for your consideration and look forward to you reviewing and considering the presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie C. Donwell".

Willie C. Donwell, MCAO/MCPPE
Director
Property Assessment Board of Review

Cc; Council President Mary Sheffield
Council Member Fred Durhal III, Chair – Budget, Finance and Audit Committee
Brian White, Chief of Staff – Council President Mary Sheffield
David Whitaker, Director – Legislative Policy Division
Irv Corley – Legislative Policy Division
Derrick Headd – Legislative Policy Division
Alvin Horhn, Deputy CFO/Assessor – Office of the Assessor