

Ch X# 13

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 9/9/, 1996

move

AG, Accept MFL Ch 18151 (Elderly Abakma's
CPI automatic calculating)

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				V.M. Kathleen L. Born
✓				Ms. Henrietta Davis
✓				Mr. Francis H. Duehay
✓				Mr. Anthony Galluccio
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
✓				Mayor Sheila T. Russell

9 - 0 - 0

was in sup: W/ 9-0
RF 0-9

AG + ?

Resolved: That the City Council go on record accepting
 Section ~~one~~^{one} of Massachusetts General Laws
 Chapter 181, providing for utilization of the
 consumer price index in the calculation of
~~elderly~~ tax abatements for ~~senior citizens~~
 the elderly.

Roll call

9-0-0



City of Cambridge

Chart Right #13

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 1996

COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record accepting Section One of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 181, providing for utilization of the consumer price index in the calculation of tax abatements for the elderly.

In City Council September 9, 1996
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Finance Department
City Hall, Cambridge Massachusetts 02139

Administration 349-4212
Tax/Utility Coll 349-4220
Treasury 349-4212
Payroll 349-4290

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: James P. Maloney, Jr., Finance Director

Re: Council Order #072, dated 6/3/96, REPORT ON THREE PERCENT DISCOUNT
ON YEARLY TAX BILLS AND INCREASE IN ELDERLY ABATEMENTS.

Date: July 16, 1996

There are two sections to Chapter 181 of the Acts of 1995 (see attached). Section 1 provides an indexing of the "elderly abatement" to the Consumer Price Index. Since the cost of this abatement is reimbursed from the Commonwealth, adopting this section of Chapter 181 has no financial effect on Cambridge. **I recommend adopting this section.** This could be done at the property tax classification public hearing in September.

Section 2 provides a discount of 3% to any taxpayer paying a full year's tax bill by November 1, rather than in two semiannual installments in November and May. For every \$1 million in taxes prepaid, Cambridge will lose \$30,000 in tax revenue. Some of this revenue would be offset by increased interest earnings. Prepayment of \$1 million would result in the City having \$470,000 (half the \$1 million in taxes less the \$30,000 discount) more than it would otherwise have in its bank account for the period November 1 to May 1. Consequently, the City would earn \$11,750 more in interest for this six-month period, calculated at the approximate prevailing rate of 5%.

Thus, for every \$1 million prepaid, the City would lose \$18,250 (\$30,000 - \$11,750) in revenue. If this section were adopted, we would need to raise taxes in excess of the current levy to support our budget. The tax increase would be passed on to all taxpayers. Because of the negative fiscal impact to the City, **I do not recommend adoption of this section of Chapter 181.**

In my opinion, the taxpayers most likely to prepay are those trusts and institutional property owners who 1) have the cash reserves to do so and, 2) are most likely to generate large savings.

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

1995 FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

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shall receive first preference
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such enforceable entitlement.

board to consist of thirteen
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the director of the Massachu-
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be appointed by the governor,

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services and elder affairs. Said
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needs identified in said analysis.

Upon completion of said comprehensive study, the executive office of communities and development in consultation with the executive offices of health and human services and elder affairs, shall develop a long term resource allocation plan designed to address the relative needs of families of low income, non-elderly handicapped persons of low income and elderly persons of low income. Nothing provided in this section shall be construed to guarantee that any need identified by said analysis or study shall be met.

SECTION 19. The executive office of communities and development shall study the effectiveness of the service coordinator program, and the implementation of the transitional rental assistance program and the priority system for housing developed pursuant to sections thirty-nine and forty of chapter one hundred and twenty-one B of the General Laws, and report its findings and recommendations to the house and senate committees on ways and means and housing and urban development no later than December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

SECTION 20. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved October 25, 1995.

WATERTOWN, TOWN OF—CHARLES W. GREENOUGH BOULEVARD

CHAPTER 180

S.B. No. 599

AN ACT authorizing the metropolitan district commission to close Charles W. Greenough boulevard in the city known as the town of Watertown on certain Sundays.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The metropolitan district commission is hereby authorized and directed to prohibit the use of motor vehicles on Charles W. Greenough boulevard between Arsenal street and North Beacon street in the city known as the town of Watertown from the hours of eleven o'clock ante meridiem to seven o'clock post meridiem on Sundays from the last Sunday in April through the second Sunday in November.

SECTION 2. The metropolitan district commission is hereby authorized, upon receipt of a request, from the town council of the city known as the town of Watertown, to suspend on any given Sunday the prohibitions set forth in section one of the use of motor vehicles on said Charles W. Greenough boulevard.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections one and two, the metropolitan district commission may, at its discretion, suspend any authorized closings if, in the judgement of said commission, any such authorized closing poses a threat to public safety or if an emergency arises in which said commission, in its judgement, deems it necessary to alter the authorized closing.

Approved October 26, 1995.

PROPERTY TAX—ELDERLY—ABATEMENT

CHAPTER 181

H.B. No. 4550

AN ACT further regulating real estate abatements for the elderly.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:—

Notwithstanding any provision of general or special law to the contrary, an abatement granted pursuant to clause Seventeenth, Seventeenth C, Seventeenth C½ or Seventeenth D may be increased annually in the discretion of a city or town by an amount not to exceed the increase in the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index for such year. This paragraph shall take effect in a city or town upon its acceptance by such city or town.

SECTION 2. Said chapter 59 is hereby further amended by striking out section 58, as appearing in the 1994 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

Section 58. In any city or town that accepts the provisions of this section, on all property taxes assessed in a city or town and collected by a city or town tax collector, discounts for the early and full payment thereof shall be three percent if the taxpayer pays the entire tax bill for the fiscal year in which said tax is due by November first or within thirty days if the bill for such tax was mailed later than October first.

In any city or town that accepts the provisions of this section and that has adopted the provisions of section fifty-seven C, the discount for early and full payment of the tax bill shall be three percent if the taxpayer pays the entire tax bill for the fiscal year in which said tax is due, notwithstanding any provisions of said section fifty-seven C, by August first or within thirty days if the tax bill was mailed later than July first. In the event it is determined at the end of a fiscal year that a taxpayer, who has exercised this option, has overpaid his tax for said fiscal year, the tax bill for the next fiscal year for said taxpayer shall be reduced by the amount that was determined to have been overpaid in the previous fiscal year.

Approved October 26, 1995.

NORTON, TOWN OF—PUBLIC WORKS

CHAPTER 182

S.B. No. 2009

AN ACT providing for the laying out and acceptance for certain ways in the town of Norton.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the town of Norton is hereby authorized to lay out and accept as public ways any of the ways listed in a document on file with the town clerk, in accordance with the following provisions. The planning board for the town of Norton shall hold a public hearing on the issue of laying out and acceptance as public ways the ways so listed. During such hearing, interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard. Within twenty-one days after said hearing, the planning board shall submit a communication to the board of selectmen with its recommendations as to which ways in said document should be laid out and accepted as public ways by said town.

The communication from the planning board shall be referred to the board of selectmen or to a special committee appointed by the board of selectmen for the sole purpose of considering the proposal to lay out and accept as public ways the ways so listed. Within forty-five days of such referral, the board of selectmen shall hold a public hearing on said proposal.

At least fourteen days prior to the public hearing to be held by the board of selectmen, said board shall cause written notice of the intention of said town to lay out and accept as public ways and of the intention to hold public hearings thereon to be sent to the owners of land abutting or being a part of the ways so listed. In addition, notice of said intention to lay out and accept as public ways those ways so listed shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in said town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

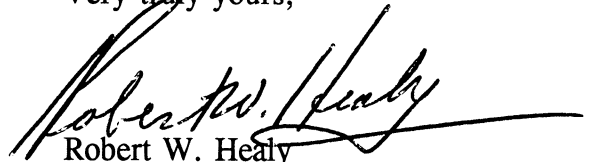
TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

July 29, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 19, regarding a report on a three percent discount on yearly tax bills and increasing the elderly abatements, received from Assistant City Manager for Finance James Maloney.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #13

F-115

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Nineteen, regarding a report on a
three percent discount on yearly tax
bills and increasing the elderly
abatements.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Charter right was
exercised by
Councillor Toomey
9-9-96

ORDER ADOPTED

9-0-0