



2020 OCT -6 AM 11:12
BOARD OF ASSESSORS

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF ASSESSORS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

Honorable Council;

October 6, 2020

The Board of Assessors has discussed and reviewed the following two Dockets:

Docket #209562

That the Director of Finance (or the appropriate department) considers raising the limit on assets seniors may claim to qualify for senior tax exemptions.

The Board of Assessors informed Annie O'Connor on Thursday, September 3, through email that the Council would need to approach our local State Representative to increase the base max for the City of Somerville with a Home Rule Petition. The Board of Assessors is currently doing everything we can do annually under the Department of Revenue guidelines. The amount is annually increased by the CPI Index or cost of living. The City of Somerville is currently a state leader in the Commonwealth.

Docket #210591

That the Director of Finance and the City Assessor discuss enacting a property tax abatement for landlords and owners who lease to artists and arts and cultural organizations, and tie these property tax reductions to rental relief for those tenants.

The Board of Assessors review abatements annually from all Owners City wide that are experiencing any market changes in their rent, vacancy and expenses. The Assessors under Mass General Law cannot create blanket abatements for any one specific use city wide. The Board proudly acts in the Honorable Council's best judgment with any and all abatements filed timely within the Fiscal Year in question. For instance, Fiscal Year 2021 is based on calendar year 2019 market conditions. This current pandemic we are experiencing is a calendar year 2020 condition. An abatement reflecting calendar year 2020 can only be acted upon in Fiscal Year 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis J. Golden

Chief Assessor, Chairmen of the Board of Assessors

City of Somerville



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