
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM17.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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Fixing the Vacant Home Tax - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council suspend the \$21.24 charge for late fees for the Vacant Home Tax for 2024, and City Council direct the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to refund residents who have already paid.
2. City Council direct the City Manager to ensure the reporting/declaration system is upgraded to include a standard practice of providing a confirmation number or receipt when declaring online.
3. City Council direct the Chief Financial Official and Treasurer to report to the July 16, 2024 meeting of Executive Committee on the Vacant Home Tax declaration process for 2025.

Summary

The rollout of the Vacant Home Tax in 2024 was not communicated well enough to clearly inform residents of the annual requirement. Many residents also declared and still received a tax bill.

There is no proper receipting or confirmation process for those declaring online, and no proper communication on advising residents to declare yearly.

There was a commitment by the City Manager to bring the 2025 process through committee.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM17.1