
City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM17.3	ACTION			Ward: All
--------	--------	--	--	-----------

Cancellation of the Vacant Home Tax Program - by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, seconded by Councillor Stephen Holyday

** 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 Vincent Crisanti, seconded by Councillor Stephen Holyday, recommends that:

1. City Council immediately cancel the Vacant Home Tax program.
2. City Council direct the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat to report back to City Council by the fourth quarter of 2024 on innovative ways to handle the housing affordability crisis in Toronto.

Summary

The City of Toronto has received over 60,000 complaints and hundreds of residents have wrongfully received a hefty tax bill in the thousands of dollars. It is clear the Vacant Home Tax is not only invasive to our taxpayers, but it is also disruptive and inconvenient beyond repair. Hundreds of Torontonians have communicated with my office, their local Councillor offices, and lined up at their local civic centres.

Some people claimed they never received a notice letter requesting their declaration, did not receive adequate communication from the City alerting them of the annual registration requirement and deadline, or knew the program existed at all. The process of rectifying the wrongful tax bill coupled with a late penalty fee has also been unnecessarily difficult.

My motion is seeking an immediate cancellation of the Vacant Home Tax and requests that City staff report back on innovative ways in handling the housing affordability crisis to better address the housing stock.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM17.3

