



From: Association for a Better Long Island
Date: March 23, 2020
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For Immediate Release

AS THE FINANCIAL CRISIS BEGINS TO BUILD BEHIND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, LONG ISLAND'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY URGES LEADERS TO SEEK A REAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT EXTENSION

With Minimum Estimates 8-10 Weeks Before Business Resumes, Extending May Payment Dates Would Relieve Immense Immediate Pressure On Business & Residents

LI Economic Development Leaders: Time is Always the Most Valuable Commodity in Business; Every Added Day Could Mean the Difference of Survival or Failure for Countless Businesses

The Association for a Better Long Island (ABLI) and Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI), whose members combine to form the region's largest taxpayer, have appealed to Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone to request that Governor Andrew Cuomo extend the real property tax payment deadline, currently scheduled for May 10, 2020 in Nassau, and May 31, 2020 in Suffolk, without penalty.

ABLI's Executive Director Kyle Strober and LIBI CEO Mitch Pally warned, "COVID-19 has already had a significant and profound impact on residents as well as a destructive effect on business and commerce. The economic impact of COVID-19 is yet to be fully known but projections are chilling."

"We are in a state of emergency, where numerous businesses are required to close and companies are required to reduce their office workforce by 100%. Therefore, residents and businesses will face difficulty paying real property taxes by the May dates. Time is always the most valuable commodity in business; every added day could mean the difference of survival or failure for countless businesses" Strober and Pally warn.

Section 925-a of the real property tax law gives the government the ability to extend the payment time

frame up to 21 days. LIBI and ABLI are asking the two County Executives to request that the Governor extend the period for paying these taxes with no additional interest or penalties. If the taxes aren't paid within the designated extension, then the same interest and penalties should be in place had there been no extension. Section 20 of the Executive Law allows the Governor to take such action.

The ripple impact is growing

Mr. Strober warned, "In addition to affected residents and businesses, the state of emergency has impacted the economic development community. Projects face indefinite delays in public hearings, zone changes, etc. Also, the entities that process the necessary building applications are canceling meetings or postponing hearings. The town governments have reduced their staff, thereby making it difficult to function at normal capacity. All of the above places a financial burden on our economic development community."

Mr. Pally stated, "As the business and development community begin to assess the significant implications of a region now 'on pause,' so too, do local and state government leaders need to consider what they can do to ensure the economy can be quickly restarted when the pandemic is declared over."

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March 23, 2020

Honorable Steve Bellone
H. Lee Dennison Building
100 Veteran Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Honorable Laura Curran
1550 Franklin Ave.
Mineola, NY 11501

Re: Extending the Period for Paying Real Property Taxes

Dear County Executives Steve Bellone & Laura Curran,

The Long Island Builders Institute and Association For a Better Long Island, whose members combine to form the region's largest taxpayer, strongly urge you to request that the Governor extend the real property tax payment deadline, currently scheduled for May 10, 2020, without penalty.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on residents as well as various industries, ranging from small to large businesses, and has posed a threat to the safety and public health on Long Island. The economic impact of COVID19 is yet to be fully known. We are in a state of emergency, where numerous business are required to close and companies are required to reduce their in office workforce by 100%. Therefore, residents and businesses will face difficulty paying real property taxes by May 10, 2020. Time is always the most valuable commodity in business, every added day could mean the difference between survival or failure for countless businesses. A 21-day extension will save businesses, reduce family pressure, and ensure economic development projects move forward.

Section 925-a of the real property tax law gives the government the ability to extend the payment time frame up to 21 days. We are asking that you to urge the Governor to extend the period for paying these taxes with no additional interest or penalties. If the taxes aren't paid within the designated extension, then the same interest and penalties should be in place had there been no extension. Section 20 of the Executive Law allows the Governor to do such action.

In addition to affected residents and business, the state of emergency has impacted the economic development community. Projects face indefinite delays in public hearings, zone changes, etc. Also, the entities that process the necessary building applications are canceling meetings or postponing hearings. The town governments have reduced their staff, thereby making it difficult to function at normal capacity. All of the above mentioned issues place a financial burden on our economic development community.

**The Long Island Builders Institute and Association For a Better Long Island
urge you to request that the Governor extend the real property tax payment
deadline.**

Sincerely,



Mitch Pally, CEO
Long Island Builders Institute



Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island

cc: Governor Andrew Cuomo