From: Mark McDermott
To: Vergara, Jill
Cc: Murray, Ross; Browne, Betsy; Kupchick, Brenda; Bremer, Tom; Bertolone, Jackie
Subject: Re: Senior & Disabled Tax Relief data discussed Monday night
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 1:18:13 PM

To the RTM, please find information on the SDTR that was presented by Representative Vergara at Monday night's Committee Meetings.

Betsy, please add to the back-up.

Best, Mark

On Wed, Jun 22, 2022 at 12:31 PM Jill Vergara <jillvergara@gmail.com> wrote:

> Mr. Moderator, through you to the RTM,
> I wanted to relay the data that I referenced at Monday night's all committees meeting.
>
> 1). I noted that the participation in the town's tax relief programs has significantly declined. With 1139 total participants, this year's data reflects the lowest participation levels in the programs' 40-year history. It also reflects the largest single-year decrease in participation that we have seen since tracking in FY2009 (a decline of 180 participants from last year).
> FY23--1139
> FY22--1319
> FY21--1306
> FY20--1311
> FY19--1343
> FY18--1438
> FY17--1475
> FY16--1542
> FY15--1612
> FY14--1611
> FY13--1578
> FY12--1620
> FY11--1656
> FY10--1629
> FY09--1566
> ---
> 1982--1326 participants
>
> 2). I also noted that new applications have significantly declined, which is driving some of the other aberrational numbers for excess income (which is probably lower than what we would have seen if applications had been at normal levels). This years' applications were nearly 1/3 of what we normally receive.
> FY23--65
> FY22--57
> FY21--235
> FY20--157
> FY19--94
> FY18--115
> FY17--119
> FY16--101

FY15--131
FY14--207
FY13--159
FY12--154
FY11--190
FY10--220
FY09--144

3). The Assessor report to the RTM notes that deaths/moves accounted for a higher number of removed accounts than normal. But if taken in combination with last year's unusually low numbers of deaths/moves recorded in the programs (probably due to the fact that participants were not required to refile under Executive Order, and so the information may have lagged), the deaths/moves from the programs are within average ranges. While deaths generally stay in the same range year to year, moves are more erratic.
Deaths:
FY23--75
FY22--12
FY21--47
FY20--46
FY19--62
Fy18--59

4). The Assessor report to the RTM notes that removal due to asset levels (the programs cap participation in the programs to homeowners with $650,000 or less in total assets, excluding principal residence; this cap has remained the same since the last revisions in 2013) are under our historical numbers. The data suggests otherwise. Removals due to assets being higher than allowed is a new phenomenon that only started occurring in/around FY20 at levels higher than a handful. Considering how few applications were received, the removals due to asset caps (15) is quite high.
Over asset cap:
FY23--15
FY22--0
FY21--27
FY20--14
FY19--4
FY18--4
FY17--8
FY16--4
FY15--0
FY14--5

Please note that the RTM's Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Committee proposed removing the asset cap (QTAV) in 2018, both because the Assessor asked that it be eliminated in August 2017 (because of ambiguous definition of total assets and difficulty determining total assets) and because we are one of only a handful of towns with an asset cap. We suggested replacing the asset cap with a straightforward assessment limit, like Greenwich.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Body with this information. Could this data please be included with the backup? Thank you!
Jill

Jill Vergara
Representative, Fairfield RTM District 7
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