



FOR THE RECORD

COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
COMPTROLLER

June 15, 2007

Honorable David I. Weprin
Chairperson, Finance Committee
New York City Council
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Statement in support of Intro 585
Sunnyside Business Improvement District**

Dear Councilmember Weprin:

The Comptroller of the City of New York serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors on all Business Improvement Districts ("BIDs"). During my term as Comptroller, I have found these public-private partnerships to be effective in developing new and innovative programs to support local business. BIDs have a proven track record of success in a broad range of communities across our city.

Efforts to incubate additional Business Improvement Districts deserve the support of all New Yorkers interested in improving the business climate along our neighborhood commercial streets that are such a crucial part of community life.

I am especially pleased to support the creation of this new BID in Sunnyside, Queens. This BID will include both sides of Queens Boulevard from 38th to 48th Streets; both sides of Greenpoint Avenue between 43rd and 48th Streets and Roosevelt Avenue between 48th and 50th Streets.

Sunnyside is a dynamic and growing community that will benefit greatly from the establishment of this new BID. I urge the Council to pass intro 585.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Thompson, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William C. Thompson, Jr.

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AGING
COMMITTEE MEMBER
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VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



MARTIN J. GOLDEN
Senator, 22nd District

FOR THE RECORD

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31 January 2006

The Honorable Christine Quinn, Speaker
Council of the City of New York
250 Broadway
New York, NY

Dear Madame Speaker:

I am writing to you concerning the city's policy of taxing the Veteran School property tax exemption.

I have enclosed correspondence from one of my constituents, Joseph Graffagino. Included is a copy of his most recent real estate tax statement from the New York City Finance Department. As you can see, the veteran school tax exemption (which reduces his real estate taxes by \$899) is taxed by the city. This taxing of the exemption reduces the Veteran School Tax exemption received by people in Mr. Graffagino's situation by a significant amount.

I would ask that the Council consider changing this policy so that those who have served our country can receive the full value of this exemption. Thanking you in advance for your consideration, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin J. Golden".

Martin J. Golden
Staten Senator

Joseph A. Graffagnino

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June 26, 2007

New York City Council
Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Legislative Office
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Address to the New York City Council,


I am asking for your support for Council Member Tony Avella's Veteran's Property Tax resolution #42/2006 which calls upon the State Legislature to change the property tax exemption law to extend the veteran's tax exemption to apply to school taxes as well as the general fund taxes. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and State Senator Marty Golden are supporters of this change, as well as many other Council members and elected officials.

The cost of living in New York City is prohibitively expensive for everyone. Real estate property tax has increased by 40% in the last few years. While there are several property tax exemptions (Clergy, Co-op/Condo Abatement, Disabled Crime Victim and Good Samaritan, Disabled Homeowners, Senior Citizen Homeowners, STAR [basic & enhanced] and Veterans) only the Veterans Tax exemption is subject to a school tax. Why are our Veterans being singled out and penalized by New York City and State?

I am writing to ask for your support to extend the veterans tax exemption to apply to the school tax also. Veterans are not just our grandparents and parents anymore; they are our brothers and sisters, cousins, uncles and aunts as well. I remember a few years ago a photo in a local paper that had Council Speaker Quinn with her Dad on Veterans Day celebrating the fact and sharing the honor of being together on Veterans Day while sharing the knowledge of what it meant to not only be a veteran but also being able to survive and be recognized by your City and State for your unselfish act of giving of yourself for the better meant of your family, friends, City, State and Country. Why not give something back to them, who have given so much for you?

This tax is morally wrong because it singles out Veterans as a "target group". If the New York City Council is supportive of this legislature then it will stand a much greater chance of success to have the State enact the appropriate changes.

Respectfully yours,


Joseph Graffagnino