



June 30th, 2021

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

222 3rd Ave N

Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

The Riversdale Business Improvement District (RBID) is respectfully requesting a meeting with Saskatoon City Council to deal specifically with the issue of erroneous property tax assessments and property tax collection policies that need a short-term adjustment to allow our businesses to withstand unprecedented property tax increases.

Following the meeting at the Roxy Theatre on June 22, 2021, with His Worship and Councillor David Kirton and the City Assessor, several solutions have been proposed that would help keep businesses operating and staff employed, and are listed below for discussion and adoption by City Council:

- 1) That City Council convene an emergency meeting to implement changes to the tax collection policies to accommodate the extenuating circumstances covid has placed businesses into.
- 2) Request that City Council direct the City Assessor to review assessments outside of the appeals process for commercial and industrial properties in Riversdale.
- 3) Request that City Council defer the 2021 property tax collection date to December 31, 2021, from June 30, 2021.
- 4) That City Council waive interest and penalties for the period from July 1 to December 31, 2021, for RBID properties.

Riversdale Business Improvement District
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344 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK, S7M 0X2



- 5) The deferring of tax increases does nothing to change tax costs to businesses it just delays the pain and doesn't actually help. We need the mistakes in assessment fixed for this year (2021).
- 6) That the City return to phase in property tax increases / decreases over four years.
- 7) The need to acknowledge that the assessment error was large enough that Council needs to correct it this year for all affected properties by issuing an Amended Assessment Notice.
- 8) Request that City Council direct the City Assessor to correct any errors this year (2021) that would translate into property tax savings and help businesses here stay open.
- 9) Request that City Council implement a cap of 10% for a property tax increase in a single year for ALL commercial and industrial properties within Saskatoon.

Please respond with your earliest date in July 2021 to convene, as many property owners and businesses cannot maintain further operating restrictions and financial constraints due to Covid related impacts and carry costs of increases to property taxes that are not manageable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Shane Biehn', written over a horizontal line.

Shane Biehn

Chair

Riversdale Business Improvement District

Board of Management

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