



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MAY 10 2016

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

The Hon. Jim Rosapepe, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
314 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Hon. Jay Walker, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation
207 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Rental Property Tax Relief Program Outreach

Dear Senator Rosapepe & Delegate Walker:

In November 2015 the Prince George's County Council passed **CB-95-2015** to establish a Renter's Property Tax Relief Supplement for each resident that qualifies for the Statewide Renters Tax Credit program. Additionally during this legislative session, the Prince George's County Delegation and the Maryland General Assembly passed **HB 340**, sponsored by Delegate Jimmy Tarlau. That legislation expanded the statewide Renters Tax Credit program and increased the pool of eligible applicants while increasing the maximum tax relief from \$750 to \$1000.

Together these bills provide relief to renters that already indirectly pay property taxes as a part of their rent. These residents now have added protection from the burden attributable to State and Local real property taxes. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) indicates that they approved 643 applications from the residents of Prince George's County in FY 2014, with the average credit being \$364. The local tax relief supplement would pay out fifty percent (50%) of the State payment made to the resident equaling an average of \$546. Now that both of these critical bills are passed, there is a growing need to communicate the benefits of these programs to our constituents and the residents of Prince George's County.

Similar to efforts this year by Senator Pinsky and Delegate Tarlau on the Homeowner's Tax Credit, we are requesting that remedies be sought to assist in outreach to all state residents, including those in the county. In Prince George's County, too few residents take advantage of this valuable program. In FY 2014, SDAT reported 942 applications received from Prince George's County residents compared to 2,123 applications from Baltimore County and 4,560 applications from Baltimore City. Increasing the number of Prince George's County residents that benefit from these programs is paramount to our continued resurgence.

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The Prince George's County Council would like to thank you for your leadership with this very important issue, yet there is still work to be done. We again, strongly urge you and your delegations to assist us in ensuring that more residents are able to take advantage of the local Property Tax Relief Supplement and the Statewide Renters Tax Credit programs. They deserve this relief.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a smaller 'D' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Derrick L. Davis

Chairman

Prince George's County Council

cc:

Maryland State Senator Paul Pinsky, District 22

Maryland State Delegate Jimmy Tarlau, District 47A