



April 7, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Real Property Tax Payment Deadline

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Association For a Better Long Island and Long Island Builders Institute, whose members combine to form the region's largest taxpayer, strongly urge you to extend the real property tax payment deadline or allow partial payment, without penalty, through Executive Order or legislation, for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently the real property tax payment deadline is scheduled for May 10, 2020 in Nassau County and May 31, 2020 in Suffolk County.

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, impacted residents and businesses will face difficulty paying real property taxes by the May deadlines. 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 and/or the ability to make partial payments, without penalty, 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 extend the period for paying these taxes or permit partial payments with no additional interest or penalties for those impacted by COVID-19. If the taxes aren't paid within the designated extension or installment, then the same interest and penalties should be in place had there been no extension. Section 20 of the Executive Law allows such action. In addition, NYS Senator Monica Martinez has sponsored a bill, S.8138, that could provide the framework of 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 Long Island's economic development community.

The Association For a Better Long Island and Long Island Builders Institute urge you to extend the real property tax payment deadline and/or permit partial payment without penalty through Executive Order or legislation for those residents and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Kyle Strober, Executive Director
Association for a Better Long Island



Mitch Pally, CEO
Long Island Builders Institute

cc: LI NYS Senate Delegation
LI NYS Assembly Delegation
Hon. Laura Curran, Nassau County Executive
Hon. Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive
Suffolk County Supervisors' Association
Hon. Don Clavin, Town of Hempstead Supervisor