

Long Island **Business**NEWS

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Development groups seek partial property tax payments



By David Winzelberg

Two Long Island economic development groups have asked Gov. Andrew Cuomo to allow partial payment of property taxes to ease the burden on financially strapped commercial and residential property owners caught in the COVID-19 crisis.

The Association for a Better Long Island and Long Island Builders Institute, whose combined membership represents the region's largest taxpayer, sent a letter urging the governor to establish an option for property owners to pay partial taxes or payments in installments without penalties.

The request comes in advance of looming property tax deadlines: May 10 in Nassau County and May 31 in Suffolk County. Last month, the two groups had asked the governor to extend those deadlines.

The real property tax law gives the government the ability to extend the payment time frame up to 21 days.

“There is a recognition that government must fund essential services and those revenues come from taxes paid by small and large businesses as well as residents,” ABLI’s Executive Director Kyle Strober and LIBI CEO Mitch Pally said in a joint statement. “But there also needs to be a recognition that businesses that are closed and residents who are out of work simply do not have the means of cutting checks with funds that no longer exist. Recognizing that reality is now an urgent priority and needs to be addressed through government policies that echo the extraordinary steps taken during the Great Depression.”

Strober added that COVID 19 is creating “a deep and profound tremor” on the Island’s economic landscape.

“Every day, ABLI is inundated with member calls, concerned about our region’s long-term economic viability should certain preventive actions not be taken immediately,” Strober said in the statement. “Extending the property tax payment deadline or permitting partial payments creates a relief valve for an economy where the pressure gauge remains in the red.”