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**To:** Members of Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk and Accountability Committee

**From:** Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

**Date:** May 29, 2020

**Re:** Consideration of Property Tax Relief Extension

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**Motion:**

Direct the Chief Financial Officer to report back to the June 22, 2020 council meeting outlining what Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Halton Hills and the Region of Halton are providing in terms of further property tax relief.

**Background:**

In light of COVID19 revenue and job losses, residents and businesses have been looking to the city to do what we can to provide relief.

The city of Burlington has extended payment of the April 21<sup>st</sup> property tax instalment to the end of June without incurring penalty and interest. To date, tax collection on the April 21<sup>st</sup> instalment is approximately 78% compared to 82% collection in April last year. The final tax instalment due dates have been extended from June and September to August and October to provide additional payment relief.

Furthermore, for those taxpayers impacted by COVID19 that require additional assistance for repayment of the April 21<sup>st</sup> instalment beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>, the City is offering enrollment in a monthly pre-authorized payment plan. This plan will provide monthly withdrawals from August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> to pay the remaining 2020 property taxes (April, August and October installments). No penalty or interest will be charged to taxpayers enrolled in this plan.

The charging of penalty and interest is scheduled to begin on June 30<sup>th</sup> so now is the opportune time to consider whether or not we wish to extend that for another period to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Penalty and interest could be added at the end of the year for non-payment of taxes.

Oakville has extended their property tax instalment dates to August and October, consistent with Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills. It is anticipated that the Region will also defer their requisition dates to August and October. Oakville has also waived interest and penalties on outstanding balances to the end of the year. Milton and Halton Hills have not.

Should Burlington choose to offer tax deferral to the end of the year, without penalty and interest, the lost revenue would be \$1.65 million compared to budget.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Meed Ward". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward