



Re: Second-Half Property Tax Payment Late Fees

Honorable Steve Bellone
Suffolk County Executive
H. Lee Dennison Building
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

May 18, 2020

County Executive Bellone,

As we quickly approach the second-half property tax payment deadline of May 31, 2020, we once again ask you to waive late payment fees and interest for residents who pay their taxes before August 1, 2020 and can prove financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak (unemployment, loss of revenue, death in the family, hospitalization). It is the government's responsibility to help those in our communities who need it the most in times of crisis.

Our respective offices, Tax Receivers' offices and social media pages have been inundated with messages from residents who are experiencing some of the toughest financial times of their lives asking us for help. Given the fact that the federal, state and even our neighboring county's governments have found solutions to this issue, our residents' frustrations are valid.

We supported your petition to the federal government to change its requirements to apply for the Municipal Liquidity Facility in our letter to Secretary Steve Mnuchin on April 22, 2020, which was successful. While we were led to believe that the MLF was the key to providing our residents some relief on tax payments, nearly a month later (and about two weeks until the deadline) we still have no actual update or information to give them.

We want you to be aware that we stand ready to assist you any way we can. We are more than willing to turn over our books on June 1, 2020 so Comptroller John Kennedy can assess how many payments are actually still owed. From there, we are all willing to continue to collect tax payments on a local level between June 2, 2020 and August 1, 2020 due to our already-established payment methods that allow social distance, in an effort to keep things simple for our residents and avoid County staff being overwhelmed with in-person payments.


We look forward to working with you and Comptroller Kennedy to find a much-needed solution for our taxpayers.

Suffolk County
Supervisors
Association

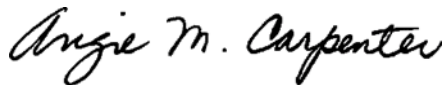
Sincerely,



Rich Schaffer
Supervisor, Town of Babylon
Chair, Suffolk County Supervisors Association



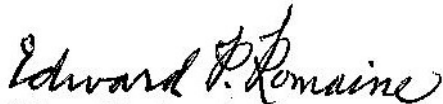
Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor, Town of Huntington



Angie Carpenter
Supervisor, Town of Islip



Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor, Town of Smithtown



Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven



Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead



Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor, Town of Southampton



Scott Russell
Supervisor, Town of Southold



Peter Van Scoyoc
Supervisor, Town of East Hampton



Gerry Siller
Supervisor, Town of Shelter Island