

September 23, 2020

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

202001563

FROM: Paula Boggs Muething, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Property Tax Project Working Group

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #201801401

On September 5, 2018, City Council approved Motion 201801401 which established the Property Tax Working Group, co-chaired by Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman and Carol Gibbs and facilitated by the Department of City Planning. The Working Group was formed to make recommendations to City Council aimed at helping to keep seniors and people living with disabilities/special needs in their homes and communities, and to review the City's residential tax abatement program.

The working group members represented a variety of stakeholders and constituent groups. The working group began meeting in February 2019 and concluded its meetings in July 2020 after an extensive process including working group meetings and public engagement. The working group's initial meetings were to establish goals and a foundation for their work. These were further informed and refined following a public meeting in April 2019. The working group then spent seven meetings (May – November 2019) educating themselves on topic areas and hearing from guest speakers who provided additional perspective. From December 2019 to July 2020, the working group operated in Focused Recommendation Groups (subcommittees) to write and refine recommendations in three topic areas: Resources for Low- and Limited-Income Residents, Property Tax Relief for Seniors and People Living with Disabilities/Special Needs, and Residential Tax Abatement Policy. The working group voted on the recommendations at their final meeting on July 23, 2020.

Members of the public were invited to all working group meetings. In addition, there were three meetings specifically designed to garner feedback directly from community members and stakeholders. These meetings were held at almost equal intervals throughout the process. As another method to gather feedback from community members and stakeholders, the Property Tax Working Group conducted two surveys that received over 650 responses.

The detailed process of the Property Tax Working Group and their recommendations are included in attached final report.

Attachments: Property Tax Working Group Final Report

CC: Katherine Keough-Jurs, AICP, Director, Department of City Planning