

*City of Taunton*

*Office of the Mayor*



## ***O'CONNELL HELPING TAUNTON RESIDENTS***

### **Mayor announces tax relief**

Taunton, MA...Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell, through a Declaration and Order waiving interest and fees, announced tax relief for Taunton residents who are suffering hardships due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are not tone deaf at City Hall. We know some people have been hit hard financially due to the pandemic. Being proactive, we are working to ease their burden. Today I am announcing that the City will waive interest and late fees for excise taxes and real estate taxes until June 29, 2020," said O'Connell. "We want to be a helping hand at city hall not a burden during these uncertain times."

The state recently passed legislation allowing mayors to waive interest and fees. After receiving clarification on the law from the Division of Local Services, O'Connell on April 16 issued a Declaration and Order waiving interest and fees on real estate and excise taxes.

The waiver of fees for real estate taxes applies only to fourth quarter bills that are due on May 18. For excise bills, the waiver applies only to the most recent bill received by taxpayers on or after March 10. In other words, it does not apply to previous unpaid bills. All payments must be received by the City by June 29 to qualify for the waiver of late fees and interest. Bills that remain unpaid on June 30 will accrue all fees and interest from the original due date, as directed by state statute.

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