



AGENDA
Special Committee of the Whole
BUDGET
Thursday, May 9, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.
Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center – Sandy Allen Room
5825 Wise Road

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Vice Chairperson

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Discussion/Presentation

- City of Lansing Proposed Fiscal Year Budget 2019/2020 Brief Overview & Highlight of Proposed Budget
- Public Comment and Questions on the Proposed Budget

4. Other

5. Adjourn



PUBLIC COMMENT AND SIGN IN SHEET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BUDGET - SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTERDATE MAY 9, 2019

Please print

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#1

Subject: City of Lansing Income Taxes

From: deh.lans@yahoo.com

To: tammygood@mi.gov; adam.hussain@lansingmi.gov; carol.wood@lansingmi.gov

Date: Friday, October 12, 2018, 12:22:24 PM EDT

Greetings all,

I have been a proud resident and property owner in the city of Lansing Michigan since 1990. I am also a 2010 retired administrator from Lansing Community College. My only income has been an LCC Pension and Social Security Disability since 2013. I was informed by my tax professional in March 2018 that I was no longer required to pay City Taxes beginning 2013 since that is when my income changed to Pension and Social Security Disability only.

My problem is that I have been faithfully receiving incorrect "Failure To File Tax Return" statements from the City of Lansing Income Tax Office stating that I owe unpaid taxes since 2016. I received a 2013 and a 2014 tax bill for each of those years. Being the unknowing and honest taxpayer that I am I thought I owed the taxes so I paid them.

When I mentioned this to my tax professional in March of 2018 she said that I needed to file a CF-1040 with the city for 2013 and 2014 to get my money refunded. I did that in March of 2018. I also called the Lansing Income Tax Office in March of 2018 and spoke with Denise, she was very professional and helpful. She stated that there was a "glitch" in the system and I should not have gotten those tax bills. The "glitch" has still not been fixed because I received another incorrect tax bill for 2015 on June 1, 2018.

Thank God I mentioned this to my tax professional or I would have never known that I had paid "not owed taxes" and missed the deadline for a refund. And I know there are probably many other Lansing taxpayers wrongfully receiving and paying tax bills due to a "glitch" in the system that seems to be "UNFIXABLE".

I have yet to receive my refund. I have serious medical issues and medical bills to pay. I pray this matter will be addressed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

Denise Harris
4032 Sheffield Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48911

Denise Harris

proceedures. eg. What happens to the dollars that are collected by the city that miss the deadline for "glitch" payment refund. Is there a "special fund" where these dollars are deposited? I am sure inquiring taxpayers, local newspapers and local television news outlets would like to know.

Sincerely,

Denise Harris
4032 Sheffield Blvd

F2
On Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 8:32:51 AM EDT, Good, Tammy <Tammy.Good@lansingmi.gov> wrote:

Ms. Harris,

I apologize for not responding sooner but the email address was incorrect so I just received your email last night.

I would first like to explain how we obtain our information to give a little background. Annually we receive a file from the State of Michigan of anyone who filed a tax return with a City of Lansing address. We then compare that to our database of who filed a tax return. Anyone who did not file a City of Lansing tax return but filed a State of Michigan tax return then will receive a compliance letter (see attached). The letter states that one of two things need to happen, file a tax return or pay the proposed amount. We do not know where the income is generated from, only that a tax return was filed with the State and not the City. I'm not certain what conversation took place with my staff but there is no "glitch" in our system.

We are currently working on current year tax returns. Once those are complete we will work on prior year returns but not until then. We process tax returns in date received order. We do not pull people's returns to the top, we do them in order, as my staff has explained to you.

If you are due a refund for 2014 (I say if because the tax return has not been audited therefore I do not know if a refund is warranted) it will be processed in the order in which it was received after the 2017 tax returns are completed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the number below or by the email address below.

Thank you.

Tammy

Tammy Good, MICPT, CPFIM

Treasurer/Income Tax Administrator

Finance – Treasury

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Subject: Re: Income Tax

#4
From: denise harris (deh.lans@yahoo.com)

To: Tammy.Good@lansingmi.gov

Cc: Carol.Wood@lansingmi.gov; Mark.Lawrence@lansingmi.gov; Adam.Hussain@lansingmi.gov;
Schor.Andy@lansingmi.gov

Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018, 11:02 AM EDT

Ms. Good,

Upon further review of your email from yesterday I just wanted to be clear that my efforts in this episode are not to focus on "pulling people's tax returns to the top" as stated in your response. My concern is the clear "GLITCH" in the process that sends threatening, intimidating tax collection notices to Lansing residents that do not owe Lansing City taxes.

The "GLITCH" that sends out notices to citizens of Lansing that taxes are due based on the city not knowing the source of that income. Income that in many cases in the days of Governor Snyder is pension only. Or in some cases a combination of Social Security and Pension income only.

In my days of higher education administration and student service I welcomed and embraced opportunities to provide quality and improved service at all times. My only hope is that you would see this occurrence as one of those and proceed accordingly to improve the taxpayer experience of Lansing residents.

Sincerely,

Denise Harris
4032 Sheffield Blvd.
Lansing MI 48911

#3
On Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 1:28:10 PM EDT, denise harris <deh.lans@yahoo.com> wrote:

Ms Good,

I accept your apology regarding not receiving my letter upon my first attempt to send. However it was sent to the email address provided to me by your office and since it was not sent back to me as undeliverable I assumed you received it.

I understand your background provided regarding processes and procedures involving City of Lansing Income Tax Returns. However being a proud Lansing resident and income tax payer since 1977 and City of Lansing homeowner and property tax payer since 1990 I have concerns regarding these processes, procedures and forms that as an average unassuming senior citizen taxpayer feel need to be reviewed and possibly revised.

I was told by Denise in your office in June of 2018 upon receiving my latest "INCOME TAX OFFICE FORM" (no official title for the form for the taxpayer) that I owe \$517.86 including Penalty and Interest for 2015 was incorrect, a "GLITCH" in the system, and to disregard it. However I did not have that knowledge regarding the "INCOME TAX FORMS" I received for 2013 and 2014 so as the responsible taxpayer that I am I paid them.

I served as an administrator and faculty member at Lansing Community College for 31 years and know for a fact that this form is very misleading, confusing, threatening, and intimidating for the average taxpayer, as it was for me. Especially since it was sent incorrectly due to an unfixable "GLITCH." Perhaps your office can host focus groups to address perceptions of processes, procedures, forms, and notices provided by and generated from and by your office.

At this point my biggest concern is not how, or that, you "pull people's returns," including mine. I'm sure you will get to my 2013 and 2014 "glitch" payment refunds as your policy and procedures address and allow.

It is the integrity and the knowledge regarding how Lansing residents and taxpayers are served by the City of Lansing regarding all policies and procedures related to the City of Lansing, and taxpayer dollars related to those policies and