



Eastport Civic Association

26 May 2020

Mr. Mayor and Alderpersons:

The Eastport Civic Association (ECA) strongly opposes the City's intention to override the mandated constant yield tax rate which effectively raises residents' real property taxes by 3% for the tax year beginning July 1, 2020. ID-141-20 should be withdrawn.

Because property value assessments have gone up, under the constant yield tax rate mandate the City is required to reduce taxpayers' tax rate from \$0.7380 per \$100 of assessment to \$0.7165 per \$100 of assessment. Using the 3% increase in assessed value and not reducing the tax rate will increase the amount of property tax that Annapolitians will have to pay and will take more than \$1.5 million dollars from taxpayers' wallets.

The City's actions are particularly egregious and tone deaf in the midst of the pandemic. The Constant Yield Tax Rate is in place to protect citizens from overreaching government and provide them with the opportunity to object. Annapolitans are hurting, many have lost their jobs with no prospects for new ones, and lines for food donations stretch for blocks and blocks. Many businesses and non-profit organizations are instituting furloughs and reducing salaries for management and staff. Every elected

official is aware of the precarious financial position that so many people find themselves in.

Adhering to the Constant Yield Tax Rate is an immediate, direct way to make a real difference in citizens' financial situations, provide relief and help alleviate hardship. The City should exercise the discipline necessary to balance the budget without taking additional money from taxpayers.

We are deeply disappointed in our leadership. Mr. Mayor, you promised Annapolitans that you would not increase taxes and are using semantics to camouflage a tax increase at a time when additional, unnecessary financial burdens should not be imposed.

Sincerely,

Debra Dillon

President, Eastport Civic Association