

**MOTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

By urging municipalities and school districts in Allegheny County to adopt a homestead exemption as a means of effecting further property tax relief for property owners.

**WHEREAS**, Act 50 of 1998 created the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act, enabling governing bodies of political subdivisions to exclude from taxation a fixed dollar amount of the assessed value of eligible properties; and Allegheny County first implemented a \$10,000 homestead exemption for residential property owners in 2002 and raised the homestead exemption to \$15,000 in 2003, an exemption which continues today; and

**WHEREAS**, although available to all political subdivisions in the County, according to the County Treasurer's Office, currently only two municipalities – Findlay Township and the Municipality of Monroeville – offer this property tax relief to its property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the reliance on property taxes in the Commonwealth continues to be an issue that must be addressed on the state level; however, local officials must also do their part to protect low-income and seniors that are most impacted by rising property costs and millage rates by making programs such as the homestead exemption available to its property owners; and

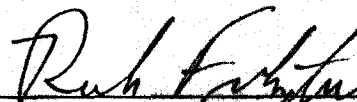
**WHEREAS**, although many municipalities offer an Act 77 Senior Citizen Discount Program, it is limited to those individuals who meet the age and income requirements of the state act; a homestead exemption would apply to all property owners who utilize their property as their primary residence and also extends to property owners who have farmsteads; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegheny County Council promotes and encourages action on the part of local elected officials in the county's municipalities and school districts to adopt an Act 50 Homestead Exemption for property owners in those areas;

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, AND IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**, that municipalities and school districts in Allegheny County are urged to adopt a homestead exemption as a means of effecting further property tax relief for property owners.

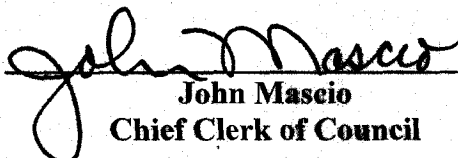
**SPONSORED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FITZGERALD**

In Council April 19 2005. Read and Approved.



**Rich Fitzgerald**  
**President of Council**

Attest:

  
**John Mascio**  
**Chief Clerk of Council**



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

# County of Allegheny

ROOM 119 • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

PHONE (412) 350-6490 • FAX (412) 350-6499

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Allegheny Valley School District  
Brentwood School District  
Duquesne School District  
Elizabeth Forward School District  
McKeesport School District  
North Hills School District  
Shaler School District  
South Park School District  
Sto-Rox School District  
Quaker Valley School District  
Upper St. Clair School District  
West Mifflin School District

**FROM:** John Mascio, Chief Clerk

**DATE:** May 3, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution No. 11-05-RE & Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council**

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At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 19, 2005, Council passed by a vote of 8-6 the attached Resolution No. 11-05-RE which urges all School Districts in Allegheny County to pass the appropriate resolution by May 30, 2005 to implement Act 72 School District Property Tax Relief.

Voting in favor of the Resolution were Council Members Cleary, DeFazio, Fawcett, Jabbour, Martoni, Nerone, Robinson, and Fitzgerald. Voting against the Resolution were Council Members Francis, Frazier, Gastgeb, Price, Rea, and Shumaker. Council Member Watt was not present for the vote.

The Resolution was approved and signed by the Chief Executive on April 27, 2005.

Also at that meeting Council approved a Motion (1920-05 – Attached) urging municipalities and school districts in Allegheny County to adopt a homestead exemption as a means of effecting further property tax relief for property owners.

Voting in favor of the Motion were Council Members Cleary, DeFazio, Fawcett, Frazier, Gastgeb, Jabbour, Martoni, Nerone, Price, Rea, Robinson, and Fitzgerald. Voting against the Motion were Council Members Francis and Shumaker. Council Member Watt was not present for the vote.

Your attention to this Motion is also requested.

**From:** Mascio, John

**Sent:** Monday, May 02, 2005 2:37 PM

**To:** 'alan\_fager@fcasd.edu'; 'ameta@masd.k12.pa.us'; 'apeterson@uscsc.k12.pa.us'; 'cerdeljac@rsd.k12.pa.us'; 'cookeg@pbsd.k12.pa.us'; 'csteward@gatewayk12.org'; 'cwalton@mtlsd.net'; 'dgr@roussoslaw.com'; 'djohnson@cornell.k12.pa.us'; 'findleyj@mail.montourschools.com'; 'grimm.ron@bpsd.org'; 'gwilson@mtlsd.net'; 'hippert@southfayette.org'; 'jdisanti@westalleggheny.k12.pa.us'; 'jdlombardo@uscsc.k12.pa.us'; 'jesterly@ehs.com'; 'jlozosky@wjhsd.net'; 'jmanley@pinerichland.org'; 'jmerhaut@pinerichland.org'; 'joseph.dimperio@carlynton.k12.pa.us'; 'jtindal@wilkinsburgschools.org'; 'korchnak@htsd.k12.pa.us'; 'lamberti@southfayette.org'; 'longor@qvsd.org'; 'matthewsj@pbsd.k12.pa.us'; 'mking@dlsd.k12.pa.us'; 'mscappel@masd.k12.pa.us'; 'murdochj@qvsd.org'; 'pgenna@phsd.k12.pa.us'; 'pmueller@efsd.net'; 'prisha@mckasd.net'; 'randazzo@kosd.org'; 'rkahler@goldenrams.com'; 'rshages@aol.com'; 'rvuoco@phsd.k12.pa.us'; 'schoolboard@wilkinsburgschools.org'; 'snowdenc@mail.montourschools.com'; 'tknight@eawildcats.net'; 'twhitfield@cvsd.net'; 'urbanek@kosd.org'; 'willsd@nhsd.k12.pa.us'; 'wilsro@whsd.k12.pa.us'; 'vmcdonald@avonworth.k12.pa.us'; 'cfaust@baldwin.k12.pa.us'; 'staresinic.nick@bpsd.org'; 'bsulkowski@cvsd.net'; 'davidr@clairton.k12.pa.us'; 'djohnson@cornell.k12.pa.us'; 'tknight@eawildcats.net'; 'pmueller@efsd.net'; 'candy\_chapple@fcasd.edu'; 'rdomencic@gator.gasd.k12.pa.us'; 'rkahler@goldenrams.com'; 'pgreen@northalleggheny.org'; 'esaiasj@nhsd.k12.pa.us'; 'rbonfield@northgate.k12.pa.us'; 'cerdeljac@rsd.k12.pa.us'; 'prisha@lcn.net'; 'iglunk@svsd.k12.pa.us'; 'hugheyc@westalleggheny.k12.pa.us'; 'jlozosky@wjhsd.net'; 'grimro@whsd.k12.pa.us'

**Subject:** Resolution 11-05-05 and Motion 1920-05 - Allegheny County Council

**To:** All Allegheny County School Districts

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John Mascio  
Chief Clerk  
Allegheny County Council



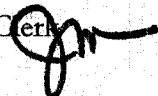
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

# County of Allegheny

ROOM 119 • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
PHONE (412) 350-6490 • FAX (412) 350-6499

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Government Administrators, Allegheny County

**FROM:** John Mascio, Chief Clerk 

**DATE:** May 5, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council

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At the Regular Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 19, 2005, Council passed by a vote of 12-2 the attached Motion (Bill No. 1920-05) urging municipalities and school districts in Allegheny County to adopt a homestead exemption as a means of effecting further property tax relief for property owners.

Voting in favor of the Motion were Council Members Cleary, DeFazio, Fawcett, Frazier, Gastgeb, Jabbour, Martoni, Nerone, Price, Rea, Robinson, and Fitzgerald. Voting against the Motion were Council Members Francis and Shumaker. Council Member Watt was not present for the vote.

Your attention to this Motion is requested.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

# County of Allegheny

5/6/05

ROOM 119 • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219  
PHONE (412) 350-6490 • FAX (412) 350-6499

## MEMORANDUM

Joe:  
Monroeville  
enacted a \$15,000  
Homestead Exemption  
for 2005.  
Marshall Bond  
Monroeville  
Mys.

TO: Local Government Administrators, Allegheny County  
FROM: John Mascio, Chief Clerk *JM*  
DATE: May 5, 2004  
SUBJECT: **Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council**

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Your attention to this Motion is requested.

RECEIVED  
MAY 06 2005  
MUNICIPALITY of  
MONROEVILLE

# TOWNSHIP *of* SHALER

Timothy J. Rogers, Esq.  
Township Manager  
trogers@shaler.org

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May 12, 2005

Honorable Members Allegheny County Council  
c/o Mr. John Mascio, Chief Clerk  
436 Grant Street, Room 119  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Subject: Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council

Dear Members of Council:

I have been asked by the Board of Commissioners to reply to the above referenced Bill 1920-05. On behalf of the Board we wish to thank you and Council for your letter expressing the sense of Council regarding the Homestead Exemption.

We thought it appropriate to advise Council of what is happening in Shaler Township. Whenever there is an assessment change by Allegheny County, the Township of Shaler considers that assessment change in its millage rates and in fact has lowered millage rates in response to every assessment change. The Township drafts its Annual Budget based on a zero based budget concept. We do not simply add to last year's budget but require all department heads to re-evaluate their annual expenses and, in some cases, we see dramatic changes in those expenses year to year. Currently, every dollar collected in property taxes is applied to provide public safety in the Township (Police, Fire, EMS).

Additionally, the Township of Shaler sponsors a Senior Citizen Gentrification Program, initiating a refund to every resident who qualifies under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Rent Rebate Program for a check up to \$25.00 in paid tax refund. While \$25.00 doesn't sound like a lot of money, remember that the average portion of a resident's property tax in Shaler Township is approximately in the \$200.00 to \$250.00 range, therefore, giving the \$25.00 refund is a reasonable amount.

In the most recent assessment re-evaluation of properties in Allegheny County, the Township reduced its taxes to the extent that less money was brought in than the prior years as a result of assessment appeals and the reduction in the Township's millage rate.

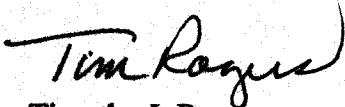
May 12, 2005  
Page 2

Finally, the Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the Allegheny County Council consider providing immediate advice, consultation and oversight of the Executive's efforts in correcting the inequities in the current Assessment Program, rather than concerning itself with how the Municipalities tax their residents. As you are aware, it is the responsibility of Allegheny County to manage the assessments and property valuation and clearly this has been a program in disarray for more than a decade. In Shaler Township alone we see that assessments are \$30,000 to \$50,000 below the actual sale price of the home which is causing many people in Shaler to pay more than their fair share of taxes.

Should you have any questions regarding the position of the Township of Shaler in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanking you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

TOWNSHIP OF SHALER



Timothy J. Rogers  
Manager

TJR:sm

cc: Board of Commissioners

5.12.05.02

# TOWNSHIP OF MOON

## Municipal Center

1000 Beaver Grade Road • Moon Township, PA 15108-2984  
Telephone: 412-262-1700 • Fax: 412-262-5344 • moontwp@moontwp.com

June 2, 2005

County of Allegheny  
Office of the County Council  
ATTN: John Mascio, Chief Clerk  
Room 119  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

### ***RE: Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council***

Dear Mr. Mascio:

Thank you for your memorandum of May 5, 2005, regarding Bill 1920-05 Motion of Council.

In December of 2004, as part of Moon Township Ordinance 581, Moon Township took advantage of the opportunity available in PA Act 222 of 2004 to provide for property tax relief as one of the permitted uses of the proceeds from the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax. The Township provided this property tax relief in the form of a \$15,000 homestead exemption, which was enacted via Moon Township Ordinance 582 on December 22, 2004. The unique aspect of those actions is that, when reviewed together, at the Township's current millage rate, the homestead exemption completely offsets the increase in the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax for Moon residents.

I have attached for your review, copies of the Township's EMS Tax and Homestead Property Exclusion Program Ordinances, 581 and 582 respectively. Please be so kind as to inform County Council of the innovative approach that Moon Township exercised to provide a Homestead Exemption to property owners within Moon Township.

Also, please make council aware that James Hubal from the County Property Assessment Office was most helpful in providing the Township with the Homestead Exemption eligibility information that we needed to properly budget the impact of the property tax relief. The county is very fortunate to have such a dedicated worker on staff!



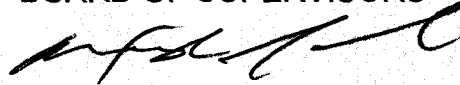
# TOWNSHIP OF MOON

Mr. John Mascio  
Page Two  
June 2, 2005

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact the Township office, if you have any questions regarding the Township's Homestead Exemption Ordinance or if the township can provide any further assistance to council on municipal matters.

Sincerely,

TOWNSHIP OF MOON  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Alexander Ropelewski  
Chairman

Enclosures (2)

CC (w/o enclosures) : Board of Supervisors  
Gregory G. Smith, Township Manager  
Jodi L. Noble, Assistant Township Manager