



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

November 30, 2023

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, along with Councilmembers Brianne K. Nadeau, Christina Henderson, Zachary Parker, Charles Allen, Janeese Lewis George, Vincent C. Gray, Robert C. White, and Brooke Pinto, I am introducing the **“Property Unmortgaged Necessary Tax (PUNT) Amendment Act of 2023”**. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation establishing a Pilot program for District residents of unmortgaged owner-occupied residential property to enroll in a monthly tax billing and payment program through the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR). Participation in this program requires a voluntary enrollment process whereby a resident makes a request to OTR.

Over the span of several Oversight Hearings, I have heard residents’ personal struggles in making their semi-annual tax payments, especially from senior homeowners on fixed incomes. This monthly tax payment plan program provides an option for residents to pay their annual real property taxes in monthly installments instead of the current semi-annual tax billing and payments that could be up to tens of thousands of dollars annually. By dividing it into smaller monthly installments, residents can better plan their monthly expenses, much like utilities payments. Additionally, all property tax payments must be received within the same fiscal year that it is being billed for.

Currently, there are various jurisdictions nationwide that offer a similar monthly property tax payment option, including but not limited to New York City in New York, Allen County in Indiana, Montgomery County in Ohio, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. Other jurisdictions also offer quarterly payment options, such as St. Lucie in Florida.

Should you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Aimellia Siemson at asiemson@dccouncil.gov or (202) 322-0442.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ANITA BONDS".

Anita Bonds

Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

ANB

Councilmember Anita Bonds

Zachary Parker

Councilmember Zachary Parker

Christina Henderson

Councilmember Christina Henderson

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Charles Allen

Councilmember Charles Allen

Robert C. White, Jr.

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

BE R

Councilmember Brooke Pinto

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend Title 47 of the District of Columbia Code to establish a program for monthly billing and payment plan on owner occupied and unmortgaged real property tax payment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Property Unmortgaged Necessary Tax (PUNT) Amendment Act of 2023”.

11 Sec. 2. Chapter 8 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended by
12 adding a new section 47-860.01 to read as follows:

13 “47-860.01. Pilot program establishing monthly tax billing and payment.

14 “(a) Within one calendar year of the passage of the Property Unmortgaged Necessary Tax
15 (PUNT) Amendment Act of 2023, the Office of Tax and Revenue shall establish and begin to
16 operate the Property Tax Monthly Billing and Payment Pilot Program (“Program”).

17 “(b) In addition to semi-annual billing, the Office of Tax and Revenue shall provide
18 residential property owners the opportunity to participate in a monthly billing and payment plan,
19 if the following are satisfied:

20 “(1) The property is not currently mortgaged;

21 “(2) The residential property is owned and occupied by the applicant for the
22 payment plan; and

23 “(3) A timely application is submitted to and approved by the Office of Tax and
24 Revenue.

25 “(d) After a participant is approved and enrolls in a monthly payment plan, the participant
26 shall re-enroll biennially through a re-certification process established by the Office of Tax and
27 Revenue;

28 “(e) If a participant fails to make a timely payment on the first installment, the participant
29 will be automatically disenrolled from the pilot program.”

30 “(f) If a participant is disenrolled from plan, the individual may re-apply for re-
31 enrollment; provided, that: the participant is current on all property taxes owed to the District.”.

32 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

33 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal

34 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
35 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

36 Sec. 4. Effective date.

37 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
38 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
39 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
40 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code§ 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
41 Columbia Register.