



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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August 6, 2024

Mayor Rob Medina
120 Malabar Road
Palm Bay, FL 32907

RE: Low Income Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption

Dear Mayor Medina,

Article VII Section 6(d) of the Florida Constitution and Florida State Statute Section 196.075(2)(a) and (b) grant county and municipal governments the authority to enact an additional homestead exemption for low-income citizens over the age of 65 that meet certain criteria. This exemption can be up to \$50,000 under subsection (a) or up to the assessed value of the property under subsection (b). To be considered low-income under this statute the senior has to have an annual household income of less than \$36,614 for 2024.

Senior citizens in our community, especially low-income seniors, are a vulnerable population with limited opportunities to improve their financial outlook. Brevard County and 11 cities within the County have enacted this additional exemption. Unfortunately, Palm Bay is not one of these municipalities. Currently, the City of Palm Bay is proposing a 6.92% tax increase.

On July 24, 2024 Governor DeSantis held a press conference at St. Pete College and spoke directly to this point. Governor DeSantis asked, "Why are you trying to raise property taxes in the midst of some of the worst inflation we have ever seen?". Governor DeSantis

followed this with a recommendation, “Why don’t you manage things better instead of trying to come and jack up people’s taxes.”

Brevard County has offered this exemption since 2007. The Board of County Commissioners urges the City of Palm Bay to enact an ordinance implementing the low-income senior citizen additional homestead exemption. These exemptions will help to mitigate potentially disastrous consequences of the proposed tax increases.

Sincerely,

Jason Steele, Chair

As ratified by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

Cc:

Donny Felix, Deputy Mayor

Kenny Johnson, Councilman