

Weber, David

From: francois chong
Sent: Monday, 30 August 2010 9:32 AM
To: Weber, David
Subject: 2010 Property Taxes - Follo: 098-701-008

Richmond City Hall

Attention: David Weber, City Clerk

Dear Mr. Weber,

The due date for this year's taxes was Friday, July 2nd. Owners, who used the City's Dropbox to drop in their payments, together with the Home Owner Grant applications, on the weekend of July 3rd & 4th, were surprised that their payments would be considered late (note attached to the City's Dropbox).

Technically, they were right. In reality, however, they were not. The payments collected on the next business day, July 5th, would be processed, together with the ones collected @ midnight July 2nd.

We received a Statement of Outstanding Taxes. After speaking to the Tax Department, we were told that the amount was the penalty on the late Net Taxes. A note, at the bottom, says that " Our records indicate that a Home Owner Grant has allready been claimed on this property".

However, the General explanatory notes - Home Owner Grant, @ the back of the 2010 Property Tax Notice, says "...TO AVOID PENALTIES, application must be received by us on or before July 2, 2010."

According to the Tax department, the Home Owner Grant application was considered "*received in time*" but the Taxes were not. How can this be? They were both dropped in together in the same envelope in the Cityhall Dropbox, July 3rd.

Furthermore, this penalty is equivalent to an unconscionable interest rate of 900%. This is tantamount to highway robbery!

We wish to speak to the upcoming Council meeting.

Yours truly,

T.K. Chong
F.C. Chee