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November 8, 2021

Montgomery County Council
Joint Committee

Dear Montgomery County Committee Members:

Subject: Bill 39-21, Taxation – Public Safety Officers – Public Safety Emergency Communications Specialists – Property Tax Credit

Below are my comments and questions regarding Bill 39-21 which hearing is scheduled for a November 9, 2021 hearing.

1)The situation where there is more than one eligible employee living in the same dwelling needs to be addressed. There must be a single credit for each property tax number.

2)There should be a credit for eligible employees who rent. Excluding this class of employees is inequitable. For various reasons homeownership is not available to everyone.

3)The credit should be limited to first time homebuyers.

4)There should be a threshold, based on wages paid by the county or rank, above which eligibility terminates.

5)There needs to be a consideration on whether this benefit will cause an increase in real estate taxes or reduction in services to county residents. These benefit programs have a tendency to become more expensive each year and therefore need an annual or review process.

In addition, I am not in favor of using the property tax for this purpose.

/Frank Luncheon