

Dear Mayor Mark Jensen, and Council members,

I'm writing in regards to the "benefits" that the City gives to "Senior" citizens that live here, are 65 yrs. old, and receive a state dividend.

I, as an onlooker greatly appreciate those benefits, which are "sales tax exemption, and the first \$150,000.00 assessed value toward property taxes, being exempt.

I believe it is "very generous" of the City to do this, as well as they have earned it in their later years, as a citizen over a long period of time, contributing to the economy, in Petersburg, and quality of life.

From the "seniors" point of view, a lot of them have limited incomes, and any "savings" ~~matter~~ matter.

I appreciate the difficulties all of you deal with, regarding budget issues. It's definitely a great problem, with declining money available. You guys are very creative in finding these funds to maintain a city.

It's been a topic of discussion, to eliminate or phase out these benefits, in one way or another.

I have confidence in the Mayor, and Council to continue to be creative in finding ways to obtain revenues, as needed for the community.

I can only imagine a senior citizen, on a limited income, how it may cause some level of anxiety, and limit their options, to know that next year or the year after, they may lose these benefits.

I ask you to give them "security" in knowing that these benefits will never be taken away, Either through the Council, or a public vote... to permanently leave these benefits in place.

It would be a great "kindness", to show "appreciation" to the seniors... as well as those to come, in recognizing their value, and contributions.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dane Roundtree