

**PROPERTY TAX - PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN EXPANSION**

**Recommendation**

The Director of Financial Services, in consultation with the Manager of Property Tax and Assessment recommends:

That the pre-authorized payment plan currently available to the property taxpayer be expanded to also include the 3 installments for each interim and final tax billing.

**Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact to the City of Vaughan.

**Communications Plan**

The program expansion will be advertised in the current Pre-Authorized application form and flyer and future tax bill mailings. It will also be included as part of the regular local newspaper advertisement for the interim and final tax billings.

**Purpose**

To inform Council of the expanded Pre-Authorized payment plan for the payment of property taxes.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Membership in the City's Pre-Authorized payment plan (PAP), first begun in July 1996, has steadily increased to almost 18% of the taxpayers in Vaughan. The current payment program provides for an automatic withdrawal from the taxpayer's bank account over an eleven month period (January to November). In order to encourage more taxpayers to join the program, other options should be made available. One of those options is to expand the existing program to include an installment/due date payment plan. This expansion of the current plan would consist of the direct withdrawal from the taxpayer's bank account for the three installments available for the interim and the three installments for the final tax billing.

This expansion of the current Pre-Authorized Payment Plan option provides for further convenience to the taxpayer in paying their property taxes.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the expansion of this program would enhance

- Service Excellence: Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery
- Management Excellence: Ensure Financial Sustainability

**Regional Implications**

There are no Regional Implications in this Report.

**Conclusion**

The expansion of the City of Vaughan's Pre-Authorized payment plan will contribute to the convenience for the taxpayer when paying their property tax obligation. The expansion of the current program may also assist in reducing the efforts of staff to collect outstanding taxes.

**Attachments**

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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