



D.C. Tax Revision Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Subject: D.C. Tax Revision Commission Meeting
Date: Nov. 19, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: 1101 4th Street, SW, Washington, DC

Members Present:

Anthony Williams	Fitzroy Lee
David Brunori	Teresa Hinze
Catherine Collins	Pauline Schneider
Mark Ein	Nicola Whiteman
Tracy Gordon	Ed Lazere

Invited Speakers:

Steve Swaim, Office of Revenue Analysis, Office of the Chief Financial Officer

David Zipper, Director of Business Development, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Jenifer Huestis Boss, Business Development Specialist, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Staff:

Kevin Clinton	Richard C. Auxier
Mike Bell	Ashley Lee

I. Call to Order (Commission Chairman)

Mr. Anthony Williams, Chairman of the D.C. Tax Revision Commission (the “Commission”), called the meeting to order. Mr. Williams welcomed the commissioners and the public to the fourth meeting of the D.C. Tax Revision Commission and thanked the invited speakers for sharing both their time and knowledge with the Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from Oct. 1, 2012

The minutes from the Oct. 1, 2012 meeting were approved without amendment.

III. Public Comment

Mr. John Carpozzi, addressing the Commission as a member of the public, asked that the Commission dedicate some of its time and resources to considering the implementation of a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) provision for private universities that reside within D.C. Mr. Carpozzi also advocated that the resulting revenue be dedicated to the District's Community College (CCDC). Mr. Carpozzi was thanked for his contribution and both his presentation and written letter were accepted by the Commission.

IV. Continuation of Business and the Commission's Research Agenda

Mr. Williams opened the meeting by recapping the completed work of the Commission and outlining what the Commission hoped to achieve going forward. He specifically restated some of the overarching goals of the Commission, including but not limited to the implementation of the criteria for judging a tax system (agreed to in a previous meeting), learning from and improving upon the work of the 1998 Tax Revision Commission, and actively engaging with the public throughout the tenure of the Commission.

Furthermore, the full Commission assessed the "Proposed D.C. Tax Revision Commission Research Agenda." While the Commission plans to take a holistic view of the District's tax code, the three major areas of concern remain: (1) fiscal architecture, (2) competition and (3) the property tax.

Individual commissioners weighed in with their respective thoughts as to how the research of the Commission should progress—specifically, with respect to how broad the scope of the research should be and noting additional areas for examination—but the Research Agenda was not amended at this time. The Commission recommended adding Tax Administration as an overarching theme and incorporating its review of property taxes into the section of the study on competitiveness, along with the other tax groupings.

The Commission reiterated it will complete its work by September 2013 but it will aim to present a finished product to the Mayor and City Council before then if possible.

V. Presentation: Overview of the District's Economy and Tax Base

Mr. Steve Swain, from the D.C. Office of Revenue Analysis, made a presentation to the Commission about the state of the D.C. economy and how recent trends have impacted the city's ability to raise tax revenue. Mr. Swain addressed the significant demographic and economic changes that have occurred in the District since the 1998 Tax Revision Commission and, without making forecasts, outlined possible events (population shifts, federal government action, etc.) that could significantly impact the city's tax base in the near future.

VI. Presentation: District of Columbia Technology Sector Enhancement Act

Mr. David Zipper and Ms. Jenifer Huestis Boss, both from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, addressed the Commission on behalf of Mayor Vincent Gray to ask that the Commission expedite a decision on the District of Columbia Technology Sector Enhancement Act. Mayor Gray had previously submitted a letter to the Commission asking for an expedited review of the legislation. Mr. Zipper and Ms. Boss presented context for why the Technology Sector Enhancement Act is a priority for the Mayor and why quick action from the Commission is desired. After briefly debating the issue, however, the Commission decided to not expedite a decision on this specific piece of legislation. Mr. Williams, speaking for the Commission, repeated his respect for Mayor Gray's request, but stated that it was the responsibility of the Commission to take a holistic view of the District's tax code before weighing in on any specific issue. The Commission resolved to address this specific issue when a more thorough review of the tax policies of the city in their entirety has been completed.

VII. Public Hearing: Dec. 3, 2012

The next meeting the D.C. Tax Revision Commission will be a public hearing on Monday, Dec. 3, 2012. Mr. Williams asked that that meeting be held in a room that can fully accommodate public participation. The possibility of using a room in the Wilson Building was discussed.

VIII. Adjournment (Commission Chairman)

The meeting was adjourned.