



April 1, 2013

Dear Fellow East Siders:

On Monday night, the Ways and Means Committee will review two ordinances I introduced. The first one regulates City's award of tax exemptions to several categories of taxpayers (the elderly, veterans, etc.), linking their award to a taxpayer's eligibility for the homestead exemption. The Tax Assessor estimates that the City awards more than \$750,000 in annual exemptions to people whose Providence address is not their primary residence (to the address where they register their automobiles). Closing this loophole will add substantial additional property tax revenues to the City without raising tax rates.

The second one will eliminate the "welcome to Providence" tax penalty for people who purchase homes that do not qualify for the homestead exemption at the time of purchase. Under the current system, there is a lag in tax bills before the exemption is applied. Homeowners can find themselves paying 60% higher taxes for the first year of home ownership. Once approved and in effect, the reform will allow homeowners the benefit of the exemption as soon as they move in. The current target date for bringing this reform online is October 1, based on the progress being made in the Tax Assessor's office to capture real estate transactions in "real time."

You help me do a better job on the City Council by reading this letter, learning about City issues, attending community meetings and corresponding with me about your ideas – thank you for all that you do. If you also would like to support my work on the City Council, I would be delighted if you can join me at a fund raising reception that will take place **this Wednesday night, April 3 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Ristorante Pizzico at 762 Hope Street**. You can purchase a ticket at the door or sign up in advance by clicking here: [Reception Sign-Up](#). In addition to allowing me the chance to thank you personally, the reception will provide a setting to meet with other City residents to discuss the issues that are important to you. My work depends critically upon the generous financial support of constituents, and I will be honored and grateful if you can extend that support to me Wednesday night.

Also on Monday night, the Tax Assessor will report on the property tax revaluation process. State law requires cities and towns to conduct a revaluation every three years to reflect changes in property values. This year Providence is undertaking a "statistical revaluation" based on sales data from the last three years and a review of each house's location and characteristics without a home inspection. The updated revaluations will be mailed to each homeowner over the next month. At the meeting, the Tax Assessor will discuss general trends in the revaluation, including some information about neighborhoods. He already has reported that values through the rest of the City are down by 10%+, which is unlikely to be the case on the East Side. Should East Side property values remain stable, taxes in our neighborhood will increase through the revaluation, while taxes in other parts of the City decrease. Some of you have written me with suggestions about ways to question the revaluation firm's methodology, which I will ask when given the opportunity.



I hope you will join me next **Thursday, April 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the Nathan Bishop Middle School cafeteria**, for a community meeting with the Providence Police and a representative from the Adult Correctional Institution concerning crime and safety issues. As I wrote in a previous letter, the police monitor prisoner releases from the ACI, as a single returning inmate can be responsible for a crime spree in a given neighborhood, until the individual is apprehended. This can explain localized spikes in crime that appear from week to week. I also hope to have more current crime data for our neighborhood. Last , based on the City's announcement of a City-wide decline at a press conference last week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samuel D. Zurier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.