

12/23/2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this letter is to discuss the negative ramifications to the elderly of Berlin of not adjusting the property exemption amount with the changes to the property assessment.

My name is Maurice Fortier and I am writing this letter for my aunt Lucille Bugeau. She is 91 years old and lives at 418 High Street. Between my grandparents and my aunt, they have lived there for about 90 years. Our concern is how not changing the elderly exemption amount very negatively affected her (and I assume all of the elderly with exemptions in Berlin), because it was not updated as the assessment and tax rate were.

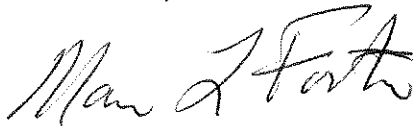
A little history. In 2020, she paid **\$2,385** in taxes. We applied for the elderly exemption and was approved for \$42,000 (her property assessment was around \$60,000). In 2021, she paid **\$891** in taxes, which was a big help in helping stay in her home, and we know that is one of your goals. However, this year, her property value jumped to \$119,800. This would not have been a serious issue, if the exemption amount had changed accordingly. Based upon the numbers, the exemption should have increased to roughly \$100,000, which would have kept her taxes appropriate. However, because the exemption did not get updated, her taxes increased to **\$2,121**! This really hurts an elderly person with limited income and assets. We feel confident your intention was not to get funding off of the backs of the elderly. We are thinking this was an oversight, and will be fixed as fast as possible, so she can get a refund soon.

Thanks for your consideration, as this really means a lot to my aunt and the other elderly of Berlin. I can make myself available for any questions or discussion. My phone number is 603-540-6976.

Maurice L. Fortier

140 Vandora Drive

Manchester, NH 03103

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maurice L. Fortier".