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TOWN OF BRENTWOOD

ORDINANCE 2019-01

ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SENIOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM

AN ORDINANCE WHEREBY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVES A FINANCIAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM TO FREEZE LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAXES AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of Brentwood is committed to living its values as a welcoming Town for all individuals and is a community that seeks to accept everyone, regardless of a person's race, ethnicity, place of origin or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Over the last several decades Brentwood residents and longtime owner-occupants of principal residences have faced the real threat of losing the financial ability to remain in their homes by virtue of the rising market values and consequent property tax assessments which are the hallmarks of the process of neighborhood change known as gentrification; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brentwood wishes to address displacement and economic hardship caused by gentrification in a comprehensive, broad, and systematic, intentional manner; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to preserve key aspects of Brentwood's past while looking forward to the future by supporting sustainable growth that protects our natural and historic resources, while preserving our values, qualities, and culture of our new and longtime residents; and

WHEREAS, after public debate and much deliberation, it is the belief of the Mayor and Council that the community is protected by adopting a property tax freeze for elderly, low-income residents; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Brentwood, that Chapter 56 of the Brentwood Code is enacted as follows:

§ 56:1 Low-income senior citizen Municipal Tax freeze

- A. The Town of Brentwood will refrain from increasing property taxes if a resident meets certain age and income requirements.

- B. Under the municipal tax freeze, the amount of property tax a resident pays each year will not increase, even if the resident's property assessment or the tax rate changes. If the tax liability decreases due to a lower property assessment or a tax rate decrease, the amount of municipal Tax owed will also be decreased to the new amount.

C. Age requirements

For purposes of this program, an eligible senior is someone who is a resident of Brentwood and meets **any of the following** descriptions:

A person aged 65 years or older as of December 31st prior to the first year you apply.

A person who lives in the same household with a spouse who is aged 65 years or older; or a person aged 50 years or older who is a widow/widower of someone who reached the age of 65 before passing away.

D. Income requirements (based on Prince George's County Living Wage)

Eligible applicant(s) will have a total income of:
\$35,360 or less for a single person; or
\$49,985 or less for a married couple.

§56:2 Application.

- A. You must be a current resident of Brentwood.
- B. Applicants shall provide to the Treasurer of the Town such information required to determine eligibility including, but not limited to, most recent federal tax returns or other proof of income, and complete such applications as provided by the Treasurer.
- C. Initial applications, together with such information required to determine eligibility for tax relief, shall be presented to the Town each year between February 1 and May 15.
- D. Upon approval of the application by the Mayor and Council, the Treasurer will be directed to issue a reimbursement in the appropriate amount to the taxpayer.

§56:3 Review.

- A. The utility of this ordinance is to be reviewed every 3 years to ensure that its intended purpose is being honored and modifications, if necessary, to the income requirements are allowed.

The provisions of this Chapter shall be construed so as to be effective to the extent that they do not conflict with federal law, state law, this Code, or any Court order.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or any other applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or applications, and to this end, all the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable;

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect 30 days from the date of its adoption;

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a fair summary of this ordinance shall forthwith be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town and otherwise be made available to the public.

THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BRENTWOOD THIS 17 DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

ATTEST/WITNESS:



Giselle Richards
Town Clerk

Mayor and Town Council of Brentwood



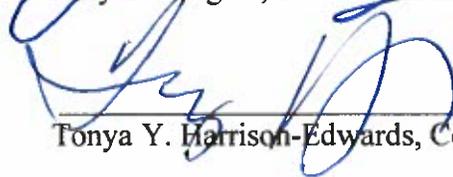
Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor

Signature not available.

Victor R. Olano, Vice-Mayor



Jerry L. Burgess, Council Member



Tonya Y. Harrison-Edwards, Council Member

