



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Fred Camillo
First Selectman

To: Representative Town Meeting (RTM)

From: First Selectman Fred Camillo

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Subject: Expressing Support for Quick Action on Tipping Fee Ordinance Proposal

The purpose of this memo is clearly express my support for the tipping fee ordinance currently before the RTM for consideration, as well as strongly request quick action by the RTM on this issue. The RTM's decision on this ordinance has direct impact on the FY21 Budget. Unfortunately, we are in the 9th inning in our budget process and quick action on this item will provide the BET with the clarity needed to produce the FY21 Proposed Budget for the RTM's budget meeting.

After attending multiple RTM committee meetings on Monday, April 13, 2020, it appears that there may be some confusion about both my position and the proposal currently before the RTM. To clarify any confusion, at the start of the FY21 budget process, I originally supported a 'Pay as You Throw' program. That program was shown in my FY21 First Selectman's Budget and had a positive net budget impact of \$3,471,447. The program lacked the necessary support needed at the time in the budget process, and unfortunately, we have strict timelines for passing an annual budget. These budget timelines are even more difficult to manage given the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, for FY21, I am strongly supporting the tipping fee proposal before you. This is a dependable concept, universal among all neighboring communities and almost all towns in CT. Without approval of the tipping fee ordinance, there will be an approximate \$3.4M hole in the FY21 Budget, translating into a significant tax increase. For FY21, I feel that rejecting the tipping fee proposal at this point in the budget process would be financially irresponsible, given the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic crisis we're facing.

I hope you will all support the tipping fee ordinance before you. Tipping fees are the best solution based on the situation we're in. Almost every town in Connecticut has tipping fees.

"The Town of Greenwich is Dedicated to Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity"

We are in uncharted waters and need to adapt to the changed environment we now find ourselves in today. The international public health emergency has created gaping holes in municipal and state budgets around our country. We must not only do everything we can to plug these holes in the present, but start preparing to do more with less in the future. These tasks must begin now.

Thank you, and please stay safe.

As always,

Fred 