

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
250 Broadway, Suite 1856
New York, New York 10007

Dear Speaker Mark-Viverito,

As a proud veteran who served our nation in the armed forces, I write to urge you to bring Int. 1304-2016, introduced by Council Members Matteo, Rose, Ferreras-Copeland, Borelli, Ulrich and Vacca up for a vote by the full Council by the conclusion of this year. Since the introduction of the legislation in October, eleven Council Members have joined the original six Sponsors of the bill, bringing the total 17 Sponsors. I ask you to join them in showing your support for your constituents who so bravely fought to defend our nation.

This legislation provides for a reduction in assessed value on a primary residence to veterans who served during a time of war, with additional reductions available to veterans who served in combat zones and disabled veterans. Currently, in New York City, the exemption is not applicable to the portion of real property taxes that are paid for school taxation and this legislation would extend the exemption to include those taxes.

While the potential savings of a few hundred dollars annually that would come as a result of this bill may not seem like much, many veterans are currently living on fixed incomes. We face regular, tough decisions on how to budget each month as the cost of living continues to increase. This legislation is a simple way to thank our veterans for their service, while also bringing some financial relief to those who desperately need it.

Furthermore, the projected cost of this legislation is a tiny fraction of the overall budget for New York City's schools. The implementation of this law would have a negligible impact on the Education budget, while providing a tangible benefit to the tens of thousands of veteran homeowners in the City of New York.

On behalf of all veterans throughout the City of New York, I thank you for your consideration on bringing this legislation to the full Council for a vote by the conclusion of 2016. Your support of veterans is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Veteran

cc: Council Member Deborah Rose
Council Member Steven Matteo
Council Member Joseph Borelli