

HIGH TAXES, LOW GROWTH & MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

A Multi-Part Report by Concerned Geneva Taxpayers

Introduction

Installment One – City Property Taxes

Installment Two – Housing Stock

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Conclusion And Call to Action

CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION:

Thank you for reading this multi-part Report. Many civic decisions have been made over the past several decades, and the purpose of this project was not to criticize or question those decisions. Rather, the purpose was and is to urgently encourage engaged and productive dialogue on where we are as a community, and where it is we're hoping to go.

For those who would say that this Report has presented the wrong data, or that information upon which it is based has been misconstrued or put forward in a biased manner, or that key counter-arguments have been ignored, it is sincerely hoped that those same people will be instrumental in helping the community reexamine and assess the entrenched opinions, feelings and assumptions variously held by our leaders and many others.

Of the many decisions that have been made by or on behalf of the community during the past 50 years or so, it would seem that the most critical may have been to become complacent and, perhaps, downright disinterested in our own future. As the data shows, there are reasons for serious concerns and a need for change and reform.

Some of the answers to Geneva's issues, it is believed, cannot be implemented by the City alone, but may require action on the part of the Town, the County, the State's legislature, and possibly the State and/or Federal courts. Can the community's interest in fixing those issues be generated and sustained so as to result in real change and reform? That, it seems, is the pressing challenge.

What is to be done with respect to the issues discussed in this multi-part Report is a matter for the community to debate and to decide, but hopefully with an urgency commensurate with the seriousness of the financial threat the City faces. This Report is just a first step. It is hoped that a cadre of dedicated citizens and other interested parties will emerge to explore follow-up steps and to formulate a clear and compelling course of action, one with broad public support and seen as a community mandate with respect to priorities and future accountabilities.

Concerned Geneva Taxpayers is a small group of individuals with a mission of informing the public about aspects of the financial crisis that is engulfing the City of Geneva and threatening to further limit the quality of life here. More on the organization can be found at www.concernedgenevataxpayers.org.