

From: Thompson, Lisa
To: Meeting Info
Subject: FW: [External] RE: LCB Enterprises LLC - AND AUGUST 24, 2021 Taxpayers Bill of Rights Hearing
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:25:15 AM

Public comment for agenda item C1.



PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Bea Stotzer
Agenda Item: C1. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing
Meeting Date: 08/24/21

From: Bea Stotzer <Bstotzer@newcapital-llc.com>
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:18 PM
To: Thompson, Lisa <Lisa.Thompson@boe.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] RE: LCB Enterprises LLC - August 24, 2021 Taxpayers Bill of Rights Hearing

Hi Lisa

I just completed the public comment section on the website...just in case it did not go through – this is what I wrote:

Thank you for allowing me to provide public comment regarding Tax Payers Advocate Office and in particular the exemplary and professional assistance of Lisa Thompson, Chief Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office and the Chairman's staff.

I serve as a Board member of New Economics for Women (NEW). NEW is a Latina non-profit economic development organization that provides essential services such as housing, financial support, economic development opportunities for low income women and their families.

I was asked to resolve a very difficult tax lien issue that the organization had been trying to address for several years for one of its properties - a community center in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. The organization did not have the means to afford an attorney to appeal BOE's determination. The property in question had received a charitable exemption for several years.

NEW was denied the tax exemption for an incomplete application. Staff tried to resolved it but with no resolution in sight which resulted in a huge tax penalty and liability. I initially approached our representative, Chairman Anthony Vasquez, in 2018, who's patience and counsel I will be eternally grateful. He explained the options and asked his staff to assist me. Kristine Cazadd in particular, spent enormous amount of time in identifying if we indeed could appeal the "incomplete application" and thus the denial for tax exemption for the years in question. She eventually connect me to Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson was extremely detailed in her research and provided documentation so that I could better understand what had happened and why we did not qualify for exemption for the years in question. She was so responsive and enormously helpful as I had a difficult duty to inform the Board of BOE's process and our options. Then the pandemic hit in the middle of seeking resolution with our Tax Collector - everything seemed to stop during COVID.

Despite this setback, both the Chairman's staff and Ms. Thompson continued to be responsive and

worked with the Tax Collector to provide the documentation necessary that explained the complexity of why the late payment penalties should be cancelled.

I am happy to report that in June 2021 the Tax Collector agreed to cancel penalties with payment due by the end of July. That payment was made and so please to inform the Board that the Tax Collector's Office confirm that they had processed property tax payment to satisfy the defaulted taxes and that the Certificate of Redemption was issued.

This positive outcome with late payment penalties being cancelled could not have happened without the help of the Lisa Thompson. In addition, her office was invaluable and we now know that they will continue to assist non-profits such as ours (who do not have the means to get legal counsel) to obtain our Organizational Clearance Certificate, expediting the welfare exemption claim processing with our County Tax Assessor.

If I can be of any assistance in helping others better understand the invaluable services BOE and the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office provides, I am at your service.

Respectfully,
Bea Stotzer
Board Member
New Economics for Women