



CITY OF NORWALK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Tax Collector's Office

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To: Mayor Harry Rilling; Board of Estimate and Taxation; Finance & Claims Committee
From: Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector
Date: December 6, 2021
Re: Narrative for November 2021 Tax Collector's Report

As of the end of November 2021, representing the first five months of the fiscal year, we collected more than \$191.4 million against our \$353.7 million adjusted levy, or **54.11%**. We collected **51.44%** of our sewer use levy, more than \$8.4 million and **82.46%** of the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) fee billing on behalf of the WPCA.

Compared with the prior fiscal year, we ended the month of November 2021 slightly ahead with regard to taxes (1.19%), but down very slightly with regard to sewer use (-0.89%), and ahead with regard to the IPP fee (8.61%). Again, recall that last year was somewhat of an aberration, since the City gave taxpayers until October 1 to pay what normally is payable by August 1.

With regard to prior years' collections, through the end of November 2021, we show a net collection of in excess of \$3.2 million since July 1, 2021. This amount is more than \$1 million more than what we collected during the first four months of the prior fiscal year, attributable to the tax sale that was held on October 18, 2021. Last month's narrative included more details about the sale. Ultimately, we collected in excess of **\$8.5 million** on behalf of the city since November 2019 on properties originally slated for this tax sale. Our budgeted collection goals for both the fiscal year ending 2021, and the fiscal year ending 2022, are predicated on the infusion of revenue generated by the tax sale. Maintaining high current and back tax collection rates promotes budgetary stability, and allows the Board of Estimate and Taxation to set lower mill rates for all taxpayers. A higher current collection rate enables less of an allowance for "uncollectible" taxes, and correspondingly lower mill rates.

The link to the sale website is here: [City of Norwalk Tax Sale 2021 \(arcgis.com\)](http://City of Norwalk Tax Sale 2021 (arcgis.com))

The second installment tax collection period is already underway. Tax statements for the second installment are at the printer now and will be mailed beginning later this week. The second installment is due January 1, 2022 and payable by February 1, 2022 without interest. It is our practice to mail bills as early as possible in order to allow taxpayers to more effectively budget their money. Many taxpayers prefer to pay their second installment payments prior to the end of the calendar year, and the week between Christmas and New Year's is typically very busy for our division. Our in person office hours remain **Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4 pm**. No appointment is needed, and we do not close for lunch. We also continue to offer other payments options, including on line payment, pay-by-phone, paying by mail, and paying in person at one of ten participating Norwalk bank branches. Our office had been short staffed due to a vacancy in our cashier position since February 2020 (pre-COVID 19). We are happy to report that our new hire started today, December 6. We are grateful for the help we received from Personnel and Labor Relations in filling this vacancy, which garnered 270+ applicants when the position was posted.

A separate narrative, for the benefit of newly elected Finance and Claims Committee members, is included in the information provided this month. This narrative describes my monthly interaction with the Committee, and our roles in the tax refund process.