

RESOLUTION NO. 70

WHEREAS, studies of the City of Alexandria's real estate assessments conducted during the past year by a group of taxpayers and a professional consultant have raised certain questions about equity and uniformity of assessments and these studies have also presented numerous recommendations proposing changes in the City's assessment objectives, policies, and applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager recently appointed a new Real Estate Assessment Director, who has installed certain new practices and is currently engaged in developing a comprehensive program for further improvements; and

WHEREAS, policies established by the City Council or City Manager and state and local laws governing real estate assessments have a direct bearing on assessment practices and methods and the Real Estate Assessment Director's program for improvements therein; and

WHEREAS, the time is therefore now propitious for a comprehensive review and evaluation of real estate assessment objectives and policies, and it is desirable that these matters be given depth study by a citizens committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

That a Citizens Committee on Real Estate Assessment Objectives and Policies is hereby established, said committee to be composed of two members from the Board of Equalization, one member from the City Council, the Real Estate Assessment Director, and five citizens at large.

This Committee shall select its own chairman and establish its own rules of procedure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Citizens Committee on Real Estate Assessment Objectives and Policies hereby is instructed to study and make specific recommendations to the City Council on:

1. Whether real estate assessments should continue to be on a 50% of full market value basis
2. What the reassessment cycle and interval should be
3. Changes in the Virginia law governing the disclosure of assessment information
4. Changes in Virginia law to require taxpayers in certain categories to furnish certain information to the Assessor
5. Board of Equalization policies and procedures
6. Policies, procedures and legal requirements governing tax assessments in Alexandria, whether local or state, which have an impact on land use, marketability, development, redevelopment, rehabilitation, renewal, demolition or repair, specifically including any factors which have undue or undesirable consequences for the City as a whole
7. The equity of the total tax burden being borne by various classes and types of property, with particular reference to the cost of providing municipal services to such classes and types of property

8. Whether real estate assessment policy can and should be used to encourage or discourage particular uses of property
9. Such other real estate assessment objectives and policy matters as the Committee may desire to evaluate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee is specifically requested to give first priority attention to subjects where amendments to Virginia law may be desirable so that the Committee can make appropriate recommendations to the City Council in time to introduce and seek passage of such legislation during the 1972 session of the Virginia General Assembly, and the Committee is furthermore requested to transmit its final report to the City Council by April 11, 1972.

Adopted November 9, 1971

---

Mrs. Helen Vickers, City Clerk  
and Clerk of Council