



# CITY OF MILPITAS

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5/15/2020

Agenda Item No. 1



## ATTACHMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEM RECEIVED AFTER AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION



## Mary Lavelle

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**From:** Allysson McDonald <allyssonmcdonald@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:19 PM  
**To:** Rich Tran; Anthony Phan; Karina Dominguez; Carmen Montano; Bob Nuñez  
**Cc:** Mary Lavelle; Steven McHarris  
**Subject:** Sales Tax vs. Parcel Tax

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### Regarding Potential Revenue Tax Measures to be placed on the Ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election

Dear Mayor Tran and City Council Members,

On April 14 staff presented 3 options for new tax measures to pay for the replacement and/or rehabilitation of infrastructure. The options included a sales tax, a general obligation bond, and a parcel tax. I was surprised by the Council's focus on a sales tax increase instead of a parcel tax. Sales taxes are regressive taxes, they disproportionately affect lower income families who pay a larger portion of their income on food, clothing and other goods. Bond measures are also regressive because they are applied uniformly, regardless of the value of the property. Of the three taxes presented, a property tax is the least regressive option, yet it was not even considered.

I think the majority of Milpitas residents would support a property tax intended to improve public safety and services by funding infrastructure improvements such as the Police/Public Works building, Fire Stations, or Recreation buildings or a potential Performing Arts Center. If you are going to test the waters on the feasibility of passing a new tax, please include this less regressive option, the parcel tax.

Yours in Community,  
Allysson McDonald