

OGDENSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

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**SUBJECT:** Requesting the State of New York begin making payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the Ogdensburg City School District given the State's vast, underutilized and blighted tax-exempt land holdings in the City of Ogdensburg.

**DATE:** October 17, 2022

**REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:**

The Board of Education should consider supporting the resolution made by the City of Ogdensburg.

**FACTS AND ANALYSIS:**

- Over 60% of the value of real estate in the City of Ogdensburg is exempt from taxation
- The City of Ogdensburg is the single largest tax-exempt land holder
- The State of New York owns 30% of the land area in the City of Ogdensburg
- The assessed values of these holdings is over \$200,000,000
- The State of New York owns over 50% of all the St. Lawrence River waterfront lands in the city
- These tax exemptions severely hamper the Ogdensburg City School District's ability to provide educational services without exceeding its constitutional taxing limit or raising local real property taxes in a city that already has the highest combined tax rate in the North Country and one of the highest combined tax rates in the entire State of New York
- These exemptions exceed \$8,200,000 in lost revenue to the City, county and school district, and multi-millions of more dollars in lost revenue each year due to their underutilized, blighted, and deteriorating conditions and the fact that they comprise over 50% of the City's valuable St. Lawrence River waterfront, hampering future private sector growth and development

- The Ogdensburg City School District Board of Education respectfully requests its New York State Senator and New York State Assemblyman to introduce legislation to gain approval and funding for PILOT payments from the State of New York to the Ogdensburg City School District.
- The State of New York makes PILOT payments to other cities in the State in recognition of their tax-exempt status, including Albany, New York which receives over \$22 million annually in PILOT payments from the State of New York.
- These PILOT payments will be earmarked for educational services and learning materials for the Ogdensburg City School District, services which are presently provided free to the State of New York at local taxpayer expense
- Copies of this resolution be sent via certified mail to Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Patty Ritchie, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and the New York State Prison Redevelopment Commission, New York State Office of Mental Health, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, United Public Service Employees Union Police Benevolent Association of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc., United Public Service Employees Union Police Supervisory Unit, and Ogdensburg Firefighters Association Local 1799, A.F.L., C.I.O., I.A.F.F.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_ that, the Ogdensburg City School District Board of Education respectfully requests its New York State Senator and New York State Assemblyman to introduce legislation to gain approval and funding for PILOT payments from the State of New York to the Ogdensburg City School District as presented on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.

APPROVED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

  
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 Superintendent

KK/rab