

## SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF ABATEMENT

### General Policies and Procedures

- Over 60 years of age as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of fiscal year.
- Homeowner or spouse of homeowner (primary residence only)
- Lynn resident for minimum of five (5) years.
- Income eligible; based on the state Circuit Breaker guidelines: below \$56,000 for single homeowner; \$84,000 for couple. Copy of income tax return is required with application. If no tax return filed, applicant must submit an IRS Form 4506-T for verification of non-filing.
- City employees (individuals on the municipal payroll, full or part time) and their immediate family are not eligible for this program.
- C.O.R.I check, Privacy Statement, and Confidentiality Agreement required.
- Applications must be filed at the Mayor's Office's Office no later than January 31st of the fiscal year to participate in the program.
- Senior Abatement Committee, consisting of the Director of Assessing or designee, a designee of the Mayor's Office, a designee of the City Council, and a designee of the Council on Aging, will review all applications and determine participants accepted into lottery.
- Maximum annual abatement of property taxes shall not exceed \$600 for 60 hours.
- Abatement earned is considered taxable income for federal tax purposes only (not taxable for state tax purposes) even though the City is not obligated to issue a Federal 1099 form for payments less than \$600. (A tax advisor should be consulted as to federal reporting requirements)
- Program begins December 1 and ends November 30 or once the applicant earns gross wages of \$600.
- Hourly rate paid will be the State minimum wage as of January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The currently hourly minimum wage rate is \$8.00 per hour, changing to \$9.00 per hour January 1, 2015.
- Applicants must apply and be subject to the lottery process annually for participation in the program.
- Rules and guidelines will be reviewed periodically and changes will be made as necessary.