

## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Michael Belluomini [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:20 AM  
**To:** Levesque, Jennifer  
**Cc:** Serratto, Matthew; Blake, Kevin; Shelton, Delray; Bertha Perez; Jesse Ornelas; Echevarria, Fernando; Sarah Boyle  
**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM K.2 WAIVE FEE FOR MOTEL ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Please have this email read aloud at the council meeting under item K.2 Waive Fee for Motel Association.

This request by the Motel Association makes no sense for the city. The Motel business owner acts as a pass through agent for a tax paid by the motel guest to the city. The tax only occurs if there are motel guests using the motel. In a recession when there are fewer guests then the tax paid is less. This Transient Occupancy Tax is never the motel owners money, so he should not be negotiating its payment to the city. The motel owners are free to pay the tax by check or cash instead of by credit card. His choice to use a credit card should not create a loss of revenue to the city which needs funding for many worthwhile programs and services. In the past the city allowed the motel owners to pay the tax in arrears. An entire years worth \$200,000 was paid a full year late in 2015 by the motel owners. If timing is the issue then payment of the tax can occur a month or two after the motel guest pays it. We all want the motel industry to prosper because it brings new revenue from outside the region into the city economy to help local businesses. But this proposal makes no sense for the city. The motel association members donated to the Mayor Serratto's election campaign. I urge you to deny this request.

Michael Belluomini

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