

April 2, 2020

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

On behalf of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA), an organization representing more than 24,000 CPAs in public practice, business, government and education, we applaud your leadership in this unprecedented time. Your efforts to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have provided a sense of calm and reassurance to all residents of New York City.

The spread of COVID-19 has impacted all individuals and businesses in New York City in some fashion. In our community, there is a growing concern about the ability of taxpayers and tax professionals to meet the fast approaching New York City tax filing deadline of April 15th for Unincorporated Business Tax Returns for Individuals and Single-Member LLCs and Business Corporation Tax Returns. According to the American Institute of CPAs' (AICPA), nearly 60% of all taxpayers turn to a tax practitioner to prepare and file their tax returns. Even the relatively simple process of filing an extension form requires calculations based on data and information from the taxpayer. Given the current environment, this process is nearly impossible for many taxpayers.

Just recently, the Internal Revenue Service and New York State extended their tax filing deadline of April 15 for most individuals and businesses for 90 days. Such action will go a long way in helping to mitigate the effects of the spread of COVID-19 for many individuals and businesses facing disruptions during this time. However, these extensions will be completely undermined if the New York City Department of Finance fails to correspondingly extend their deadlines – especially for businesses. This is due to the fact that businesses must have their federal and state returns fully prepared in order to complete Unincorporated Business Tax Returns for Individuals and Single-Member LLCs and Business Corporation Tax Returns. Simply abating penalties while no abating interest for late filed/paid returns will, therefore, not be sufficient.

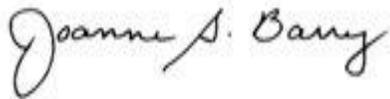
Similar to what the Internal Revenue Service and State of New York have done, the NYSSCPA is respectfully requesting that the New York City tax filing deadline of April 15th be extended for 90 days without interest or penalty.

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The NYSSCPA looks forward to continue working with you and your administration and stands ready to provide any and all assistance to New York City during this uncertain time. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne S. Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joanne S. Barry, CAE
Executive Director/CEO