

Print this Page

Blair Barondes: Northampton's move in PILOT unfairly targets nonprofits

Friday, November 13, 2015

(Published in print: Monday, November 16, 2015)

To the editor:

Unfortunately, there is nothing voluntary in Northampton's proposed payment in lieu of taxes program, or PILOT. The city plans to establish an amount due, track payments and publicly share what each organization has paid.

How can this not be construed as anything but coercive?

If a truly voluntary contribution was being requested, a city representative could privately contact each organization.

And once this program starts on the limited number of proposed nonprofits, what is to prevent its expansion to smaller nonprofits and religious organizations?

Our nonprofits struggle to provide vital services and an extra tax on them trickles down to the individual Northampton residents who make up their memberships or use their services, which will become more expensive or more limited.

The city should reverse course and protect our nonprofits and our citizens.

Blair Barondes

Northampton

Source URL:<http://www.gazettenet.com/home/19401221-95/blair-barondes-northamptons-move-in-pilot-unfairly-targets-nonprofits>