



City of Lowell - Law Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor;

DATE: June 28, 2022

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: June 14, 2022 – Councilor Scott - Request the City Manager Provide an Update on Tax Title Sales Auctions that Have Been Implemented or Will Be Implemented this Year.

In 2011, the City's Tax Title Division joined the Law Department. That year, the City held its first municipal lien auction pursuant to MGL c.60, §52. Pursuant to the process, properties in tax title are bundled and sold to the highest bidder. Prior to the auction, owners of these properties receive two separate notices of the upcoming auction. Additionally, a notice of the auction is published in *The Sun*. Property owners receiving an elderly, widow, hardship, or veterans exemption, are not included in the auction.

In light of certain economic hardships resulting from Covid-19, the City delayed its annual auction until this year. At this time, it is anticipated that an auction will be held in the month of October and would include takings in 2019, 2020, and 2021. While past auctions have generally exceeded an initial bundle of 300 properties, this year we anticipate that close to 500 tax title liens will be sold.