

Appeal Letter From Community Baptist Church (10/9/23)

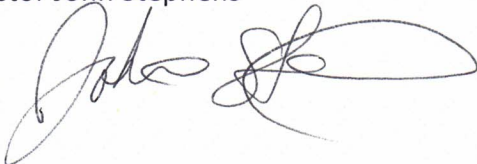
Dear City Council Members,

My name is Pastor John, and I am the head Pastor of Community Baptist Church in town. We recently received a notice of an assessment of \$60,303.02 due to the city for a recent road and sidewalk project that was completed on the street to the south of our church building. I am writing you to consider a few things when placing these assessments on our church building.

1. We are a non-profit, tax-exempt church. Our church relies on the generous hearts of its members and attendees to keep the church functioning. Lawfully we are not to be taxed. We understand that recently there have been those who feel that an assessment is not a tax. We do not agree with this, and we do believe that we are being taxed. We ask you to consider this when making your decision about the amount of money you are charging our church.
2. Recently we made the decision to help our community by building our multi-purpose sports fields. There was a need in our community for these fields, and many people are very happy with our decision to help the community in this way. By building these fields we have helped the city of New Prague tremendously to meet a need that would have cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in the future. We at Community Baptist Church feel it is our duty to help and serve the community of New Prague with many of their needs. If you continue to put these expenses on us, it will severely hinder our service and help to the community. We ask you to consider this when making your decision about the amount of money you are charging our church.
3. Overall, over the last few years you have given us a total of almost \$100,000 in bills to pay. How do you expect a church in the city of New Prague to continue to stand if you keep doing this to us? We ask that you reconsider the amount you are charging us and either remove it or greatly reduce the amount so we can continue to minister and serve the community of New Prague with their needs.

Thank you for considering,

Pastor John Stephens

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Stephens', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

john@npcbc.com