

Memphis City Council Resolution

WHEREAS, with the April 15, 2017, tax deadline approaching for the 2016 tax year, the Memphis City Council urges the entire citizenry to practice vigilance to ensure that they are not taken advantage of by unscrupulous tax preparers and tax preparation companies; and

WHEREAS, citizens should exercise extreme caution when selecting a preparer by avoiding someone whose goal is to prepare false and fraudulent tax returns in a scheme to defraud their clients; and

WHEREAS, the IRS suggests the following tips to ensure that you do not hire an abusive return preparer:

Avoid return preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers

Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund

Use a reputable tax professional that signs and enters a preparer tax identification number on your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records

Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return, months, even years, after the return has been filed

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis should do all within its power to protect the citizens of this community who are vulnerable to falling prey to unscrupulous preparers by educating the public and providing avenues to identify those who would operate outside the law; and

WHEREAS, in Chicago, Illinois, a “Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers” (see attached) and additionally, approved an ordinance that informs the public of their rights through field investigators who can guide them on filing a complaint when they have been victimized and also provides fines that are levied against a business found in violation of the ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL that the City of Memphis bring attention to this matter and undertake efforts to educate citizens on what they should look for in identifying a tax preparer professional so that they do not become victims of dishonest tax preparers and preparation services.

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