CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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JAMES F. KENNEY
MAYOR

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Darrell Clarke
City Council President
City Hall, Room 490
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke,

This letter is in response to questions raised at the April 3rd, 2019 hearing before the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget for the Office of Property Assessment. At this hearing, the following question was asked:

Councilman Greenlee: *Provide detail outlining the different phases of the CAMA project, along with the features and benefits of each phase.*

Response:
The CAMA project will improve OPA operations by replacing multiple, disparate internal systems with a single, modernized state-of-the-art CAMA system (iasWorld) that provides OPA staff with tools for the job, better supports OPA processes and results in better services to the City residents.

Assessment (Phase 1)
- Quickly add, update, deactivate and search comprehensive property record information from one system
- Manage abatements & exceptions
- Track and manage appeals
- Generate reports and export data
- Use maps to view and search for properties within a given area
- View, manage, track and complete assessment related activities with integrated task management tools
- Store important documents and images on the parcel record

Field Mobile (Phase 2)
- Evaluators can confirm and update property record details while visiting properties.

Public Access (Phase 3)
- Property owners can submit inquiries and applications for exemptions and abatements, appeals online.
- Staff can easily submit, route and track property owner inquiries and applications through iasWorld.

Improvements include:

- **Single System of Record:** Full parcel history accessed and updated in a single system.
- **Instant Updates:** Property characteristic updates are reflected immediately once the change is made.
- **Reduce Data Errors:** Data validation rules help eliminate errors such as invalid date fields, or invalid characteristics.
- **Electronic Data Capture:** Ability to capture work with all kinds of applications filed online
- **Mobility:** Collecting data onsite will be faster, and easier enabling in-office management of the process to become more efficient.
  - **Reduce latency of data:** Updates made to property information and assessments, including updates made as a result of appeals decisions made by the BRT or changes at a result of the First Level Review (FLR) process, are more quickly shared with other City agencies, reducing the number errors as a result of latency of data.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you,

John Hodge