

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
RENAISSANCE ZONE
PUBLIC ACT 376 OF 1996, AS AMENDED
(All Data Subject to Change)
Updated April 10, 2007

1. What are the benefits of the Renaissance Zone program to eligible businesses and residents?
 - a) City and state income / SBT tax exemptions
 - b) Property tax exemptions (except for public school bonded debt millages)
 - c) Expiration of the benefits
 - I. Original portion of the Ren Zone was established in 1997. Benefits begin to expire in 2009. In 2009, 75% of property taxes will be exempted to qualified property owners and properties. In 2010, 50% will be exempted and in 2011, 25% will be exempted. Property owners will pay 100% of property taxes in 2012 and beyond. Most Ren Zone properties are in the original portion of the Renaissance Zone.
 - II. For properties in the expansion portion of the Ren Zone, benefits begin to expire in 2015. In 2015, 75% of property taxes will be exempted to qualified property owners and properties. In 2016, 50% will be exempted and in 2017, 25% will be exempted. Property owners will pay 100% of property taxes in 2018 and beyond.
 - III. The expansion portion of the Ren Zone includes certain, but not all, properties in these areas – 47 to 86 Monroe Center, N.W.; 1919 to 1955 Boston Street, S.E.; 520/620 Watson Street, S.W.; 525/617 Butterworth St. S.W.; 2000 Oak Industrial Drive; 310 28th Street, S.E.
2. Eligibility requirements
 - a) Timely filing of personal property returns and Renaissance Zone form
 - b) Timely filing and payment of any state and city income / SBT taxes
 - c) Timely filing and payment of state and city employee withholding taxes
 - d) Timely payment of any property taxes
 - e) Special requirements for residential rental property.
 - I. Residential rental property defined as a property having one or more dwelling units marked on the property record and less than 100% homestead / principal residence exemption marked on the property record.
 - II. Passing an annual inspection of the property by Housing Inspectors to ensure that the property is in substantial compliance with all applicable state and local building, housing, and zoning codes, ordinances, and laws.
 - III. Maintain a current and valid certificate of occupancy for the property.
3. Available resources:
 - a) City website:
www.grcity.us - Go to "Property Tax Info" on left side of home page to see if a property is in the Ren Zone , to look at property tax history, and to look at the parcel record to determine if dwelling units are marked on the parcel.
 - b) Michigan Economic Development Corporation website:
www.medc.michigan.org, click on "Financing/Incentive" on the right side of the home page, then page down until you get to "Renaissance Zones." General Ren Zone information provided including maps.
 - c) Michigan Compiled Laws website:
www.legislature.mi.gov – To look up the Ren Zone Act (Public Act 376 of 1996, as amended) or to look up the Ren Zone Act ineligibility section specifically (MCL number 125.2690.)
4. Attachments:
 - a) Residential tax benefits eligibility
 - b) Business tax benefits eligibility
 - c) Renaissance Zone contact list
 - d) Excerpt from the Renaissance Zone Act regarding ineligibility

Note: Subject to change.

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
RENAISSANCE ZONE CONTACT LIST
AS OF APRIL 10, 2007**

STATE OF MICHIGAN TAXES

Income Tax Telephone number will be on Request for Information
Single Business Tax Telephone number will be on Notice of Adjustment

PROPERTY TAXES - PRIOR YEAR REAL PROPERTY ONLY

Kent County Treasurer's Office, County Administration Building, 1st Floor
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
www.AccessKent.com then click on "Property/Parcel Lookup" on the home page

PROPERTY TAXES - REAL (CURRENT YEAR) AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

City of Grand Rapids Treasurer's Office, City Hall, 2nd Floor
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-456-3285 Albert C. Mooney, City Treasurer
Email: amooney@grcity.us
Website: www.grcity.us then click on "Property Tax Info" on the left side of the home page. Note that personal property information is confidential and is not found on the website.

INCOME TAXES - CITY

City Income Tax Department, City Hall, 3rd Floor
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-456-3415
Unlike real estate property taxes, there is no website access to City Income Tax records due to confidentiality reasons. City income tax forms are on the City's website (www.grcity.us) then click on "Departments" at the top of the home page then click on "Income Tax."

BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE COMPLIANCE

City of Grand Rapids Neighborhood Improvement Department
1120 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-456-3161 Virginia Million (supervisor) or 616-456-3205 Deb Bird (assistant)
Emails: vmillion@grcity.us dbird@grcity.us

PROBLEM SOLVING / OMBUDSMAN

City of Grand Rapids Fiscal Services Department, City Hall, 7th Floor
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-456-4514 Jana M. Wallace, Debt and Authority Finance Officer
Email: jwallace@grcity.us (fastest means of getting a response)

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROGRAM AND LOCATIONS

City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Department, City Hall, 9th Floor
300 Monroe Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
616-456-3681 Dan Oegema, Acting Economic Development Director
Email: doegema@grcity.us

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