

**To:** Denver City Council, Jamie Torres President  
**From:** Jennifer Cappeto, Manager, Landmark Preservation, Community Planning & Development  
**Date:** September 19, 2022  
**RE:** Proposed Update to Downtown Historic District Property Tax Rebate Incentive – Amendment to Article XIV of Chapter 53 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC)

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the amendment to Article XIV of Chapter 53 of the DRMC.

**Downtown Historic District Property Tax Rebate Incentive Ordinance:**

The Downtown Historic District Property Tax Rebate Incentive was created by Denver City Council through adoption of an ordinance in 2000 following designation of the Downtown Historic District. The ordinance for the tax rebate incentive was updated in 2010 to clarify the process by which applicants apply for the tax rebate and how Community Planning and Development (CPD) and the Department of Finance (DOF) process applications and remit payments.

**Summary of Proposed Ordinance Updates:**

- Change ambiguous eligibility criterion
  - Change current requirement that street elevation(s) must be “substantially original in appearance” to “substantially historic in appearance, or have alterations that complied with the Landmark design guidelines at the time of alteration, or remain unaltered since designation of the historic district.”
  - Allows property owners who have not made changes since designation or who made changes based on design guidelines to be eligible for tax rebate.
- Change application and payment deadlines
  - Change CPD application deadline from September 1 to December 1 to better align with Mayor’s budget proposal and City Council’s budget adoption timelines
  - Change DOF payment deadline from September 1 to December 1 in year following application certification to continue the current 12-month period between receipt of applications and payment