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Dear Congregant,

On behalf of Congregation Or Tzion, thank you for your inquiry about adjusted dues. Our Synagogue welcomes all members of the Jewish community who wish to be affiliated with us. If you have come to us in the past or if this is your first time seeking an abatement, we welcome your application. We don’t want your membership with Congregation Or Tzion to cause major financial strain on your household. However, the reality is that being part of a spiritual community has a financial obligation. We believe everyone should pay their fair share.

We recognize that there are times that we experience financial difficulties. We would like to work with you on a case-by-case basis, to assist you with a reasonable reduction in your annual membership dues. If you are not aware, your annual dues can be paid quarterly or monthly with a credit card on file.

We understand the sensitive nature of any financial discussion and want to reassure you that all requests and submitted information are kept strictly confidential.

An Abatement Application form is enclosed with this letter and the steps you must take to initiate and complete the process. Please read this information carefully. **All abatement request are due August 15th.** Oncethe Abatement Committee receives all the required information, we will review your request at the committee’s next scheduled meeting. You will receive an email notifying you of the committee’s decision on your abatement request. You may also be contacted if further information or clarification is needed. You must submit your request by the deadline. This year with are working limited funds. This will allow the committee time to process your application before the start of the High Holidays. **Since circumstances may change from year to year, we ask that you reapply each year if you need abatement.** Once your abatement is approved you will receive an abatement agree from our bookkeeper. This agreement **MUST** be signed and sent back otherwise your abatement will not be granted.

You are always welcome to email the Abatement Committee at treasurer@congregationortzion.org Our community values your membership at Congregation Or Tzion. We understand that dealing with financial issues often makes people uneasy. We will always treat your confidential request with dignity and respect, while making the process as fair as possible.

Thank you,

Norm Kur, Treasurer

Rachel Feitlinger, Member

Alison Feinberg, Member**Abatement Application Form 2017/18**

*Return this form to:* *treasurer@congregationortzion.org* *or*

*mail to Rachel Feitlinger, 8409 East Kalil Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260*

***All applications must be members-in-good standing.***

Name

Email Address       Contact Phone #

Number of Household Member

List the Names and ages of each member

*Full Name / Age*

How many years have you been a member

Have you been on abatement before: [ ]  **YES** **[ ]  NO**

Dues Category 2017-18 (check one)

[ ]  Senior Family, 65+ - $1800

[ ]  Family, age 35-65 - $2125

[ ]  Family 34 and under - $1145

[ ]  Newlywed (first year only) - $0

[ ]  Associate - married - $950

[ ]  Single, 65+ - $880

[ ]  Single, 35-65 - $1145

[ ]  Single, 34 and under - $550

[ ]  Associate - single - $475

*(if applicable)* What is the amount of your Religious School Fees *(on your July 2017 statement)* $

*(if applicable)* What is the amount of your B’nai Mitzvah Fees *(from your July 2017 statement)* $

What is the amount of the subsidy you are requesting $

*(If requesting an abatement that is* ***more than 50%*** *of your stated dues category,*

*we are now requiring a copy of your 2016 W2 or 1099 tax forms.)*

**Reasons for abatement request**. Please share any extenuating financial situations. For example: are you caring for a special needs or elder family member? Has there been a recent job or income loss within the last year? Extenuating medical circumstances?

**All Abatement request are due by August 15th**

If your application is submitted prior to each of these dates it will be reviewed at that meeting and you will hear back from us within 10 days.

**Volunteer!** As we partner with you on this request, we are asking for you to partner with us. We need you and/or your family to engage in our participatory culture. Help on a variety of committees, volunteer as a greeter on Shabbat, make birthday phone calls, office assistance, assemble and deliver Mishloah Manot (Purim Baskets), serve as an Usher at High Holiday services… the list of opportunities are endless. **Please tell us how we can count on your participation this year:**