

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Room 1001
Chicago, Illinois 60602
312- 603-5030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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Press Contact:
Enza Raineri (312) 603-5690 or
cell: (312) 522-8222
ezraineri@cookcountycourt.com

**South Suburban Property Taxes & Ownership Issues Town Hall Meeting
Presented by Dorothy Brown, Joe Berrios, Eugene Moore and Larry Rogers,
and South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association**

In conjunction with Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor, Eric Kellogg, Mayor, City of Harvey, President Kenneth Williams, Thornton School District 205, Cook County Commissioners Deborah Sims and Joan Murphy, coordinated by Mayor Deyon Dean, Village of Riverdale

(CHICAGO) Cook County elected officials, including: Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios, Recorder of Deeds Eugene “Gene” Moore, and Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Larry Rogers, Jr., along with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Cook County Commissioners Deborah Sims and Joan Murphy will host the *South Suburban Property Taxes & Ownership Issues Town Hall Meeting*, on Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 5:30 p.m. at Thornton Township High School, 15001 Broadway Ave., Harvey, IL. This event is free and open to the public.

“We are well aware that the people of Cook County are struggling during these difficult economic times, especially where it concerns housing and property issues. As elected officials, the concerns of the community are *our* concerns. We have chosen to combine efforts to bring useful information to the citizens of the south suburbs, such as how to appeal your property taxes, understanding how your property value is assessed, and if you are owed money from a mortgage foreclosure sale, among many other topics,” said Clerk Dorothy Brown.

“The Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, in particular, will provide information about the Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Fund. We are holding approximately \$16 million that is owed to individuals who’ve lost property to foreclosure in Cook County,” said Clerk Brown.

The four Cook County elected officials are also working in collaboration with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and South Suburban County Commissioners Deborah Sims (5th) and Joan Murphy (6th). The Town Hall meeting is being coordinated by Village of Riverdale Mayor Deyon Dean and Mr. Kenneth Williams, President, Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education.

The Cook County Assessor’s Office will provide taxpayer information, including how to file for homeowner exemptions. “We need to be sure that all homeowners are receiving the exemptions that they deserve, and that their properties are being properly assessed,” said Assessor Berrios.

The Recorder of Deeds will present information on property fraud and quit-claim deed notification. Recorder Moore said, "I have been a strong advocate for a number of years against property and deed fraud here in Cook County. For this reason, I advocated for what is now one of the first Mortgage Fraud Prevention Units in Illinois housed in a County Recorder's Office. This unit is responsible for a 24-hour hotline that was established for Cook residents to report possible property and deed fraud.

"I urge Cook residents to check the status of their property according to county records," Recorder Moore added. "If homeowners learn of fraudulent transfers early enough they will be able to stop any potential loans from being taken out against their property and start the process of clearing their property's title. Early detection is a powerful weapon against the cancer of property fraud."

The Cook County Board of Review Commissioner will offer information on property assessments and how to appeal property taxes. "Through unemployment or underemployment, taxpayers are simply without the means to afford exorbitant tax bills," said Commissioner Larry Rogers, Jr. "I am fully committed to making sure that no one pays more than their fair share of property taxes."

The Town Hall meeting will also feature display tables, provided by the elected officials, offering practical information on services and programs related to Cook County property tax and property ownership issues.

For more information, you can contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Town Hall meeting hotline number at 312-603-5200 or go to our website at www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org.

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