



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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**State and Local Elected Officials Form a Task Force to Help
Cook County Citizens Who've Lost Property to Foreclosure**

Officials will collaborate on best ways to find individuals who are owed more than
\$16 million

Chicago (TODAY) – A group of elected officials have formed a task force focused on finding Cook County residents who may be owed money after losing a property due to foreclosure. The elected officials have joined forces and formed the *Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Fund Task Force* to inform the public of the \$16 million in mortgage foreclosure surplus funds which is currently being held by the Clerk's Office.

The Clerk's Office is currently holding approximately \$16 million in Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Funds, varying in value, which represent approximately 1,944 of foreclosure court cases. Foreclosure Surplus is the profit owed to an individual who foreclosed on property that was subsequently sold at a dollar amount over what was owed to the bank at the time of foreclosure.

Members of the task force include: Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Joseph Berrios, Cook County Assessor; Eugene Moore, Cook County Recorder of Deeds; City of Chicago Mayor's Office; and Dan Rutherford, Illinois State Treasurer.

Assessor Berrios reached out to Clerk Brown and offered assistance in helping to inform the public about the mortgage foreclosure surplus money. The Assessor and Clerk subsequently held a meeting with various county elected officials involved with the tax process as well as a representative from the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and the City of Chicago Mayor's Office to discuss how to reach the greatest number of people.

"I am thrilled that Assessor Berrios, reached out to me to organize this effort between our offices on behalf of all taxpayers in Cook County. I would also like to thank the other members of the task force, The City of Chicago Mayor's Office, Recorder Eugene Moore, and State Treasurer Dan Rutherford for lending their support to this great effort.

In the midst of our nation's current economic crisis, people have lost personal or commercial property. We hope people listen and appreciate our efforts in trying to give money to those who are entitled to their surplus from foreclosures. These days, every penny counts." said Clerk Brown.

Each Task Force participant, will provide a link on their office website to the Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Fund portal, located on the Clerk' Office website, at www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org. The participating agencies website addresses are www.cookcountyassessor.com; www.ccrd.info and www.treasurer.il.gov and www.cityofchicago.org.

"I am very pleased to be involved in this cooperative effort to help taxpayers during these hard economic times," Assessor Berrios said. "I applaud Clerk Brown for taking the initiative in forming this task force to help Cook County residents receive the money that is owed to them."

"My office has discovered that many foreclosures that have occurred in Cook County, have been based upon forged signatures, improper notaries and other document irregularities. Homes have been lost and families devastated. Let us, City, County and State Elected Officials, make sure that we do not victimize Cook County citizens again. The surplus funds should be made available to the citizens of Cook County in accordance to statute without undue delay." said Eugene 'Gene' Moore, Cook County Recorder of Deeds

Clerk Brown has launched an outreach campaign, introducing an online search engine, on the Clerk's Office Website (www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org) in an effort to locate people who are owed these Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Funds from foreclosed homes in Cook County. Various media outlets including television, radio and print, have been supportive of informing the public about the surplus funds. Since the launch of the website portal, the fund has been reduced from a high of \$19 million to \$16 million.

The Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus search engine allows citizens to enter their first initial and last name to see if they are on the surplus list. If an initial match is made, additional screens open up with directions to the court forms necessary to file a motion, petition for the turnover of the surplus funds, and file an appearance with the presiding judge. Also at the portal are answers to frequently asked questions about obtaining a mortgage surplus.

Interested persons may call the Clerk's Office Chancery Division at 312-603-5133 to obtain information about the Mortgage Foreclosure Surplus Funds.

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