

Stop Thousands from Losing Their Homes at the Wayne County Auction! Save Our Neighborhoods!

Of the 42,000 properties foreclosed on by Wayne County this year, it is estimated from 10,000-12,000 "owner-occupied homes" will be auctioned off for back property taxes in September and October sales.

Auctioning off these homes--often owned by the elderly, sick, retired or unemployed--will result in the loss of these residents, the transfer of their property to land speculators and/or more blight in our already hard hit neighborhoods. This tragedy does not have to happen!

Over \$204 million in Federal Funds was made available, to assist people in need of paying off back property taxes (up to \$30,000)! It is being distributed through a state program called Step Forward Michigan (<http://www.stepforwardmichigan.org/spv-54.aspx>). Unfortunately the state didn't get the program up and running until AFTER the Wayne County meetings held this year for residents to work out payments/plans to avoid their homes going to auction. About 1700 residents did apply later and it appears they will be exempt from auction until their applications are processed. However thousands more do not know about the Step Forward program, and therefore face the loss of their property.

For the first time, the County has changed the rules and decided to go after homeowners who have recently purchased their property, and whose taxes weren't paid the current year of purchase. In the past, Wayne County worked with this set of homeowners to negotiate a plan for paying these back taxes. Due to this change, the County may seize the property (called "reversion") without auction, if the back taxes aren't paid by the following March 31st.

What can be done?

- In some past years Wayne County has suspended the auction of "owner-occupied homes." This must be done again this year!
- Every owner-occupied resident needs to be made aware of how to apply for the Step Forward program. The State needs to reduce the restrictions and red tape to make these funds available.
- Wayne County must negotiate with new homeowners, not seize or "revert" their new homes!

Detroit and Wayne County are stuck in dire economic conditions. Instead of quick bucks from undervalued sales of homes to speculators, we must prioritize keeping people in their homes and preserving our neighborhoods. Last year these undervalued sales actually *cost* Detroit about \$80 million.

Each year in Detroit, close to half of all property tax foreclosures are bank owned properties! The banks who have money, REFUSE to pay property taxes, and dump the property on the city. While people who can't pay, due to real problems, face loss of their home!

Keep people in Detroit and Wayne County in their homes! Stop expanding the blight!

Wayne County must Stop the Sept. and Oct. Auctions of Owner Occupied Homes

Step Forward Michigan must reduce restrictions, red tape and speed up Release of Federal Funds to Prevent Tax Foreclosure!

Wayne County must not seek "Reversion" to the County of Owner Occupied Homes!

Detroit Eviction Defense

Contact us at detroitevictiondefense@gmail.com , or call UAW 600 at 313-429-5009

Web: detroitevictiondefense.org

Follow us on twitter @EvictDefense

Labor Donated