



# RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ

## Wayne County Treasurer

TERRANCE A. KEITH  
Chief Deputy

ROBERT J. GRDEN  
Deputy / Financial Services

JAMES W. BICKLEY  
Deputy / Land Management

## PRESS RELEASE

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## **PHASE II OF OPERATION NORMANDY KICKS IN**

### **Wayne County Treasurer coordinates massive-door-to-door effort to reach remaining delinquent taxpayers most at risk of losing homes**

Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz has launched Phase II of Operation Normandy. This follow-up effort to what was begun on February 18, 2008, urges churches, community groups and neighborhood associations to assist in going door-to-door to contact renters and owners of occupied properties who have yet to contact either the Treasurer's office or any one of the non-profit organizations with which the Treasurer's office has partnered regarding their 2005 delinquent taxes.

In April, once the statutory March 31, 2008 deadline for payment of delinquent property taxes had come and gone, representatives for the Treasurer's Office hit the streets, and went door-to-door visiting more than 3,000 owner and renter occupied properties to let the residents and owners know that, in compliance with Michigan Law, tax foreclosure action was underway on their property. More importantly, they were made aware that they could still make arrangements for assistance and prevent foreclosure by contacting the Treasurer's Taxpayers Assistance Department. Many responded, but many more did not.

Phase II seeks to enlist the assistance of churches, neighborhood organizations, community groups and those most trusted in, and knowledgeable of, their neighborhoods and surrounding communities, to go door-to-door and visit those taxpayers that have 2005 delinquent property taxes and have, for whatever reason, still have not responded to this personal appeal and notification.

This army of local organizations will be dispatched throughout Wayne County and will comb through every neighborhood by zip code. As of June 3, 2008, the zip codes with the highest number of occupied properties are:



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48203	152
48204	126
48205	121
48206	82
48210	84
48212	118
48213	138
48227	117
48234	96
48238	139

A complete zip code list for the City of Detroit and all out county occupied properties is also attached.

The Treasurer is reaching out to any organization willing to assist in this effort. Contact Keith Owens at the Communication/Community Outreach Department at 313.224.5408 by Monday, June 30, 2008, if your organization can help.

Treasurer Wojtowicz has *no interest* in taking anyone's home and is doing everything he can to encourage taxpayers to contact his office for assistance, long after the statutory March 31, 2008 deadline has passed. "I believe there is no challenge that we cannot meet, if we do it together. I encourage anyone that is having difficulty paying 2005 delinquent taxes to contact my office immediately. We can help. If you represent a non-profit organization, you can help."

Phase I was launched On February 18, 2008, when Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz launched the first phase of Operation Normandy, the formation of an 'allied force' of more than 20 non-profit organizations, whose resources would be combined with the resources of this office, to wage an all-out offensive designed to provide assistance to taxpayers having difficulty paying delinquent property taxes and avoid tax foreclosure. At that time he also announced that the second phase of this ambitious endeavor would be launched in June.

The success of the first phase of Operation Normandy has been significant. The Office of the Wayne County Treasurer has accepted more than 1,300 hardship applications, more than double the number of applications for hardship applications over last year. More than 1400 payments have been accepted *after* the March 31, 2008 deadline, each one saving a home. Delinquent Property Tax collections, for the first four months of 2008, are up 9 percent over to same period last year.

The Treasurer's intention is that Phase II of Operation Normandy will be equally successful, "We are doing everything possible to reach out to our community and encourage residents to help us help their friends,



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family, and neighbors survive these difficult economic times. And, the best way to do it is by keeping people in homes. To all those non-profit organizations, I say, ‘You can help. Do it today.’”