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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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June 3, 2011

Ald. Jim Bohl  
(414) 286-2221

## **Alderman Bohl Wants Change in City's Reassessment Notice Practices**

Alderman Jim Bohl said it should not have taken an inquiry to the city Assessor's Office to find out why he and his wife did not receive a 2011 property reassessment notice from the city.

"I was informed that only city property owners who had a change in the assessed value of their property received notice in the mail from the city Assessor's Office," said Alderman Bohl, who represents the 5<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District on the city's northwest side.

"I think this practice by the Assessor's Office is wrong and I'm asking my colleagues to take a serious look at changing it," he said.

The alderman has introduced **file #110216** to hear from City Assessor Mary Reavey on the issue, and will be before the Council's **Judiciary and Legislation Committee on Monday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

According to Alderman Bohl, Ms. Reavey has indicated that her office complies with a provision of state law that allows the city to not send out reassessment notices to property owners whose assessed value is unchanged from the previous year. However, he said the law does not compel or force the city to comply with the provision.

The practice, Alderman Bohl said, "is inequitable and essentially cheats our property owners out of the full and fair knowledge that they can appeal their reassessment and when it can be done."

**-More-**

## **Reassessment notices/ADD ONE**

“From an administrative standpoint, the current practice does not provide adequate due process to our property owners and is simply poor public policy,” he said.

The alderman said he fears that there may be hundreds if not thousands of property owners who did not receive a notice from the Assessor’s Office, were unaware of the time-line and process, and missed out on the opportunity to file an appeal because the filing deadline – May 16 – has come and gone. The alderman believes property owners who have a written notice received in the mail have a much higher likelihood of moving forward with contesting their reassessment than those receiving no notice and instruction.

Alderman Bohl said he is hoping that the current practice is not in place to simply reduce the number of assessment appeals or to save dollars on mailing costs at the expense of having a fair and honest policy. “If we are not forced to comply with the provision that says we don’t have to send notices to property owners who have no change in their assessment, then I would really like to know why we are doing it,” he said. “I’d really like to know where the decision-making process on this came from.”

