
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 28, 2012

Ald. Jim Bohl
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Proposal seeks change to city's reassessment notice practices

A Common Council resolution to be considered tomorrow by the Judiciary and Legislation Committee would require the Assessor's Office to send out reassessment notices to all property owners – even those whose assessed value is unchanged from the previous year.

The resolution (file # **111645**), authored by **Alderman Jim Bohl** and co-sponsored by **Alderman Jim Witkowiak** and **Alderman Bob Donovan**, goes before the Council's **Judiciary and Legislation Committee at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, March 29) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

The legislation has roots in a communication file introduced by Alderman Bohl in June 2011 after he made 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. He said he 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.

"Only sending reassessment notices to property owners who had a change in their assessment is wrong and cheats our property owners out of the full and fair knowledge that they can appeal their reassessment and when it can be done," he said.

Alderman Witkowiak said the legislation to be considered tomorrow includes a provision that reassessment notices must disclose the current valuation and describe the appeal rights of the property owner, the appeal process, and the deadline for filing an appeal.

"I believe the proposal corrects our current practices to allow for true due process and is simply better public policy," Alderman Witkowiak said.

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Reassessment notices/ADD ONE

Alderman Bohl said the Assessor's Office currently follows 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.

Last year only 16,000 of the city's 144,000 residential property owners – those with a change in their assessment – received a reassessment notice from the city, Alderman Bohl said.

Alderman Bohl has said he fears that despite information online on the city's web site and an annual press conference made by the Assessor's Office around revaluation time, that a large share among those who do not receive a written reassessment notice in the mail are unaware of the time-line and process, and are missing out on the opportunity to file an appeal. The alderman said he believes property owners deserve this information in a transparent and informed way and feels this legislative measure requiring a formal mailing is the best way to assure that.

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