



For Immediate Release

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting Reminds Homeowners That March 31st is the Final Day to Apply for a Reduction in Assessed Value

Despite the 11,700 temporary reductions issued in 2009-10, Ting expects a record setting number of requests for reductions in 2010-11

San Francisco, CA– Today, San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting informed all residential property owners that the Assessor's Office deadline for informal reviews of assessed property values is Wednesday, March 31st, 2010. Under state law, Proposition 8, property owners can receive a temporary reduction if the current market value of their property is determined to be lower than the assessed value.

In 2009-10 over 11,700 homeowners received temporary reductions in the assessed value of their homes. Those property owners who received a reduction last year will automatically have their assessed value reviewed for the 2010-11 tax year and do not need to reapply.

“Our office has simplified the informal review application, increased our multilingual outreach efforts, and encouraged any homeowner who believes their property is eligible for a reduced assessment to apply before the March 31st deadline.” Ting continued, “It is our responsibility to accurately value all property in San Francisco even in times of economic downturn it is crucial that all taxpayers are treated fairly and according to state law.”

To apply for a temporary reduction in assessed value, simply complete and return a basic one page form, available at the office or www.sfgov.org/assessor. Property owners are encouraged to provide information about comparable sales along with the application, but they are not required to do so. Applications are also available in Chinese and Spanish. The informal review process is limited to single family dwellings, residential condominiums, townhouses, live-work units, and residential cooperative units.

Since January 4th, 2010 the Assessor-Recorder's office has already received over 3,600 requests. In 2007-08, the Assessor-Recorder's office received approximately 245 informal review requests. Given that property values have been declining across the state, taxpayers have reported numerous attempts by dishonest private companies that have been sending what looks to be official government letters to collect unnecessary fees of hundreds of dollars to file property tax reduction forms.



“The process to apply for a property tax reduction is completely free and simple to do. It is extremely important that property owners don’t fall victim to private companies that offer a service for a fee, that the Assessor’s office offers for free,” stated Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting.

All applicants who applied for a temporary reduction will be receiving notice of their informal review results in the mail by end of July. “This year we have streamlined our informal review process to ensure taxpayers are informed of the results in the annual Notice of Assessed Value mailed in July. If the property owners disagree with the results of their informal appeal they can file a formal appeal with the Assessment Appeals Board between July 2nd, 2010 and September 15th, 2010.

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