



**For Immediate Release**

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**Assessor Recorder Phil Ting's Office Generates \$50 Million  
in Property Tax Revenue Above Prior Projections**

*Above-forecast revenues critical to next year's budget, closing \$300 million deficit*

*Educators, Labor Leaders and Community Advocates Join Ting,  
Detail Impact Surplus Revenue to Have on Schools, Public Safety and Community Programs*

**San Francisco, CA** – As the City and County of San Francisco works to close a \$300 million budget deficit, Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting announces his office generated an additional \$50 million in property tax revenues – exceeding revenue projections from earlier this year.

The revenues Ting detailed were factored into the budget Mayor Ed Lee submitted to the Board of Supervisors last week. Initial forecasts had the Assessor-Recorder's office generating \$47 million in supplemental and escape property taxes. With a few weeks left before the end of the fiscal year, Ting's office will generate approximately \$97 million in supplemental and escape revenue.

The additional \$50 million in revenue above projections is nearly 17% of the \$300 million budget deficit for this coming fiscal year. Supplemental and escape property taxes are in addition to a regular tax bill and reflect the difference between the prior assessed value and a new assessment.

“San Franciscans and our City Hall leadership is dealing with an extremely difficult budget, so I am very pleased our office is helping locate every dollar of revenue the City can use to pay for essential services and programs,” said Ting.

Nearly \$24 million of the \$50 million surplus generated by the Assessor-Recorder's office will be allocated to the City's General Fund. The \$24 million in additional General Fund revenue generated by Ting's office means more dollars for essential services and programs had the deficit been \$380 million as was once expected.

Going by prior expenditures from the General Fund, it is estimated there is an additional \$9.5 million more for police, fire and public protection, \$6.5 million more for human services and neighborhood development and \$5.25 million more for community health services.

While it does not get its dollars from the City's General Fund, the San Francisco Unified School District is also benefiting from the Assessor-Recorder's \$50 million surplus. It is estimated SFUSD is receiving an additional \$4.5 million from the higher-than-expected revenues generated by Ting's office.



Assessor-Recorder Ting was joined by education, labor and community leaders to discuss the importance of generating every tax dollar owed the City and the additional \$50 million in revenue.

“The difficult work done by Assessor-Recorder Ting and the dedicated men and women who serve in this office has made a dent in the juggernaut bearing down on the schools,” said Linda Plack of United Educators of San Francisco. “The \$4.5 million dollars that will go to the SFUSD, thanks to the collection of this nearly \$50 million dollar surplus, will poke a hole in the gathering clouds and let a little light shine on the school district.”

“Lower-income families and at-risk communities feel a tremendous amount of pain in tough budget times like this,” says John Eller of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE). “Additional resources for community development programs and neighborhood revitalization initiatives help strengthen the fabric of our communities. The people in our neighborhoods rely on community centers, after-school programs, job-training and health services.”

“We are in the third consecutive year of budget cuts: where the public is asked to give up on basic city services and workers have to dig deeper into their pockets to help balance the budget,” said SEIU’s Alysabeth Alexander. “We are seeing things we never saw before--parks locked up during the day, longer waits for unemployment and related services, and a greater reliance on a public health system that has suffered tremendous cuts in previous years. City services and non-profits are truly cut to the bone. It is exciting there is an alternative that can help fund the worst of these cuts.”

The Assessor-Recorder’s office has generated revenues above projections every year since Ting took office in 2005. Ting’s office has also increased the total amount of property tax revenues for San Francisco every year he’s led the department.

For Fiscal Year 2011-12, the Assessor-Recorder’s office will be able to dedicate additional staff to complete existing real estate cases that generate new assessment values – transactions such as changes-in-ownership and remodeling projects.

“We took a look at the revenues we delivered for the City and it was clear we could generate even more tax dollars for the City by increasing our output,” said Ting. “Every dollar in revenue we generate means additional resources for essential services and maintaining the quality of life we enjoy in San Francisco.”

The increase in productivity and the revenue surpluses generated by the Assessor-Recorder also came while the office was responding to 12,173 Assessment Appeals Board cases since 2008. During the prior four years combined, there were only 5,919 assessment appeals.

“It’s no surprise that property values have taken a hit in recent years and that has meant a record number of assessment appeals our staff has had to respond to,” said Ting. “I am so proud of the incredibly professional response of the Assessor-Recorder’s office to the huge increase in workload we’ve experience the last several years.”

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