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**Contact: Brian Schwartz
(419) 245-1016
(419) 467-1876**

MAYOR APPEALS TO LEGISLATURE FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF

Toledo, Ohio - Hoping to block legislation that would reduce the potential for mortgage relief for struggling homeowners, Mayor Carty Finkbeiner asked Northwest Ohio legislators to oppose Ohio House Bill 359.

HB 359 would remove a county treasurer's ability to use Delinquent Tax and Assessment Collection funds to be used for mortgage relief. Rather, it would require that half of those funds be allocated to the county prosecutor and the other half to the county treasurer for nuisance abatement of foreclosed dwellings.

"Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokatis was able to provide loans to 200 homeowners to allow them to stay in their homes," said Mayor Finkbeiner. "It seems to me, in a state devastated by the foreclosure crisis, that we'd want to use that money to save homes instead of cleaning up the aftermath."

Mayor Finkbeiner asked area legislators to either oppose HB 359, or co-sponsor and/ or support an amendment that would allow counties to use up to \$3 million from the DTAC fund to prevent residential foreclosure.

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