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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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**June 29, 2004**

## **City to Help Bronx Residents Resolve Property and Water Debt in Outreach Session June 30**

### **Liens on 1425 Properties With a Total Value of \$ 49 Million to be Sold on July 29 Unless Owners Satisfy Debt or Successfully Contest Charges.**

Finance is offering help to thousands of Bronx property owners who are in danger of having a lien sold on their property unless they pay what they owe or correct our records by July 29. The Department of Finance published a list of properties that owe the city millions of dollars in property taxes and water charges

“The clock is ticking for seriously delinquent owners to pay property taxes and water charges,” Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark said. “ To date nearly 1400 property owners have made payment arrangements and have had their property removed from the lien sale. I urge New Yorkers to come forward as soon as possible, even if they believe they have been listed in error, so they can take care of their arrears and avoid the lien sale.”

On Wednesday June 30, Finance will team up with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to conduct a community outreach session in the Bronx. “Any Bronx resident with outstanding property taxes or water debt should take advantage of this session,” said Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion. “If you have outstanding debt issues I encourage you to set up a reasonable payment arrangement.”

Wednesday’s outreach session is at the Lehman College Music Building/ Faculty Building at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West. Registration for each session is required to register please call 212-504-4039.

Bronx residents who may be in danger of having a lien sold should receive a 30 day notice in the mail, but they can also check online The so-called “30-day list” of properties is published online at [nyc.gov/finance](http://nyc.gov/finance)—**click on the scroller for lien sale information**. Finance also mailed notices to owners of all 13,000 properties. Delinquent owners who find their properties on the list should pay their debt in full immediately or enter into an installment agreement. For the first time, all owners who have not defaulted on a previous payment plan are eligible. Owners who believe that the City’s records are

incorrect also should contact the City immediately. Information is available at **nyc.gov/finance** or by calling 311.

In addition to the outreach sessions, Finance is conducting an advertising campaign targeted in 24 ethnic and community newspapers, as well as the city's main dailies. For the first time, Finance made lien sale information available in Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Korean at **nyc.gov/finance**. Payments can be made online, at any of Finance's Borough Business Centers or by mail, regardless of where the property is located. To ensure timely processing, Finance advises owners not to make payments by mail after July 9. "I really hope owners on the list come forward as soon as possible, because we can't help them unless they come to us," Commissioner Stark said. "Time is running out."

CONTACT: Sam Miller O: (212) 669-4763 C: (917) 783-0079  
Joanna Perlman O: (212) 669 2566 C: (917) 769-4637