

NEWS



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Michael A. Nutter, Mayor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR NUTTER UNVEILS PLAN FOR PHILADELPHIANS AFFECTED BY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

Philadelphia, June 04 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter unveiled the [Philadelphia Mortgage Foreclosure Protection Plan](#) today at a press conference at City Hall. The Plan consists of a number of measures designed to help Philadelphia homeowners affected by the mortgage foreclosure crisis including free housing counseling services and a hotline that people can call if they are having trouble with their mortgages. The Mayor was joined at the press conference by Councilwoman Tasco, Councilman Jones, Sheriff Green, Judge Jones and Judge Rizzo.

“We are not just talking about people who are currently affected by sheriff sales,” said Mayor Nutter. “We want to help any families who are worried about their mortgages and worried about keeping their homes. It is important that we get the message out to people: it is not too late. If you have any concerns about your mortgage please call 215-334-HOME to arrange free housing counseling from one of our experts. We’re here to help you keep your home.”

The public outreach program will include a public service announcement recorded by the Mayor to run on television and radio, advertisements in newspapers and on buses, inserts in water bills, letters to residents affected by sheriff sales, and outreach teams going door-to-door at the homes of affected homeowners to provide advice. Concerned homeowners should call 215-334-HOME to talk to an attorney from Community Legal Services. They will help homeowners understand their loans and work to see if they can be made more affordable.

There were over 6,200 foreclosure filings in Philadelphia last year, an increase of 18% over 2006. This year there are expecting to be around 8,500 filings.

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With a rising number of mortgage foreclosures a number of other steps have been taken to keep Philadelphia residents in their homes:

1. Sheriff John Green delayed the sales that were scheduled for the months of April and May until July. This action was motivated in part by City Council Resolution No. 080331, which passed on March 27, 2008.
2. The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas established the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program. The program requires all owner occupied properties scheduled for sheriff's sale to be scheduled for a conciliation conference before they can be sold.
3. The City has provided additional funding in the FY 2009 budget: \$700,000 for housing counseling through OHCD, \$300,000 for legal services through Community Legal Services and \$1 million for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's HERO program, which allows homeowners with not good credit to re-mortgage.

The Mayor has recorded the following public service announcement which was aired at the press conference and which will play on television and radio:

Hi. I'm Mike Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia.

Are you behind on your mortgage payments? Have you received a letter from the Sheriff's office that you don't understand?

If you're having problems with your mortgage, and are worried that you're going to lose your house, you can get help.

For free housing counseling, call this number: 215-334-HOME. 215.334.4663.

A housing counselor can help explain the terms of your loan. You may even be able to make your monthly payments more affordable.

There is no charge for this service. So please, if you're worried about losing your home, there is help.

Call 215-334-HOME today.

Thank you.

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