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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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**City Agencies Host Evening Session to Help Brooklynites Resolve
Property, Water Debt Before July 29 Lien Sale
Liens on 3,922 Properties With a Total Value of \$99 Million to be Sold Unless
Owners Satisfy Debt or Successfully Contest Charges.**

The Department of Finance, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development will offer to help to thousands of Brooklyn property owners on July 14 who are in danger of having a lien sold on their property unless they pay what they owe or correct Finance's records by July 28. .

The help session, which is being co-hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, will take place at the Finance Business Center in Downtown Brooklyn at 210 Joralemon Street, 1st floor. Attendees are urged to register by calling Finance at 212-504-4039.

"The clock is ticking for seriously delinquent owners to pay property taxes and water charges," Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark said. "To date, more than 1500 Brooklyn property owners have made payment arrangements and have had their property removed from the lien sale. I urge more Brooklynites 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."

"I encourage Brooklyn residents with questions about outstanding property taxes or water debt to advantage of this opportunity," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. "If you have outstanding debt issues this session can help get you the answers you need."

Brooklyn residents who may be in danger of having a lien sold should have received a notice in the mail recently, but they can also check online at nyc.gov/finance. A list of properties on the lien list was also published in yesterday's Daily News.

Finance mailed notices to owners of delinquent properties on May 25, again in late June and will do so again this week. 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 conducting help sessions in every borough, 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.

"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."

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