

# News

## Macomb County Board of Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 21, 2011

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### **Finance Committee Highlights Efforts by Treasurer to Collaborate with Residents and Business Owners**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — The Macomb County Finance Committee recently heard an update from County Treasurer Ted Wahby announcing solid results for the 10<sup>th</sup> year when it comes to helping Macomb County residents and business owners hold on to their property.

Wahby cited a slew of successful statistics, including the fact that in the last decade, no occupied homes or businesses have been acquired by the county because of a willingness to collaborate with taxpayers. In addition, of the 1,536 *un-occupied* homes, businesses, and vacant lots which have been foreclosed upon, 100-percent of the property was sold and returned to the tax rolls.

“Consistently, I have given my staff the directive that we are not going to take any occupied house or business,” he said. “We put tremendous effort into working with taxpayers. If an individual expresses a sincere desire to keep their property and is willing to work with us, we have always found a way to work out a solution.”

Wahby said that in thousands of cases, his staff went above and beyond expectations to assist the property owners, noting that where in hardship cases, his office put taxpayers in contact with federal, state, and local agencies to help find assistance. His staff also made phone calls, sent letters on behalf of property owners, and even drove them to appointments in order to assist.

During this current forfeiture cycle (which covered parcels with 2008 delinquent taxes) the Treasurer’s office granted hardship extensions to 622 taxpayers. To date, 206 have paid-in-full.

“I commend Ted Wahby and his staff for being proactive and working with people so they can retain their homes and business spaces,” said Finance Committee Chair Don Brown. “Too often, people in these situations equate dealing with a treasurer’s office as a daunting task, but Ted’s office has proved that county services are here to truly assist residents and taxpayers when they need us most.”

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