



EDWARD J. LEONARD

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Media Advisory

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Homeowner Helpline Announces Mediation Program in Franklin County

Columbus, (OH) - Homeowner Helpline, a collaborative county program designed to assist Franklin County residents struggling to save their home from foreclosure will now offer a mediation program in conjunction with the Franklin County court systems. This program is available to homeowners who are either in pre- or post foreclosure case filing status in Common Pleas Court. The purpose of mediation is to encourage homeowners and lenders to come to the table and work out options for payment in order to avoid expensive litigation proceedings and prevent the homeowner from losing their home to foreclosure.

As of the end of September 2008, there have been 7,098 foreclosure filed with the Franklin County Clerk of the Common Pleas Court. Ohio is one of a few states in the country that have a mediation program established and Franklin County is among only a handful of counties in the state participating in this Supreme Court initiated effort.

With the passage of HB562 and HB 359 earlier this year, the Treasurer and Prosecutor are now authorized to use revenue earned from the delinquent tax and assessment collection (DTAC) funds for foreclosure prevention programs, nuisance abatement, and demolition. This revenue is the source of the \$540,000 in funding that is being provided to the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts to implement this very worthwhile program.

Please join Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien, Municipal Court Administrative Judge Carrie Glaeden, and Common Pleas Judges Guy Reece and Stephen McIntosh on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 2:45pm, 369 S. High St. Columbus, Ohio in Courtroom 7A for more details.

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