



*For Immediate Release
February 22, 2012*

*Contact: Mike Florio
(516) 571-6227*

Press Release

Democrats Demand That Republicans Use the \$14 Million They Have to Pay Residential Refunds Now

Mangano Forced to Reverse Course after Dems School Him on Tax Cert Refunds

(Mineola, NY) – Democrats in the Nassau County Legislature questioned why the Mangano Administration was withholding residential refunds when there is over \$14 million to pay those claims now.

Democratic Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams last week requested that the Office of Legislative Budget Review (OLBR) identify the funds available from the 2010 bonding approved by the legislature.

The OLBR report confirmed that the County has \$14.7 million available to pay assessment challenges. In 2011 the County paid \$28.6 million in commercial judgments and only \$2.3 million in residential claims. The Administration has stated that the County still owes \$20 million in residential refunds.

“We know that there is money in the bank to pay homeowners right away, but the Mangano Administration has sat on those funds for over a year and tried to force our hand into lumping \$102 million in settlements together without the ability to thoroughly review each case,” said Abrahams.

Last week County Executive Ed Mangano sent a letter to over 17,000 homeowners that are owed a refund stating that the Democrats were holding up their payment. Mangano also claimed in his letter that without the Democrats approval to borrow over \$100 million he would have to raise taxes 25%. A claim without any merit since New York State passed a law in 2011 which limits property tax increases to the lesser of 2% or the rate of inflation. Mangano was present at the ceremonial bill signing of this by Governor Andrew Cuomo in Lynbrook last June.

"The fact that not only has the County Executive been sitting on millions of dollars that should be paid to county residents who are owed that money, but then also spends taxpayer dollars to a mail scare tactic letter that contains out and out lies defies all logic and reason," stated Abrahams. "It is absolutely unacceptable that the head of our government acts in such an incompetent and irresponsible manner."

While the \$14 million has been identified it is still uncertain whether the Mangano Administration will actually use it to refund homeowners.

In addition, on Friday, the Mangano Administration was forced to file an amendment to remove all tax certiorari judgments and settlements under \$100,000 for approval from the Nassau County Legislature.

Democrats objected to the process during a meeting of the Legislature's Finance Committee two weeks ago. Among the issues raised by the Democrats were that claims under \$100,000 were not subject to approval by the Legislature and that Legislators needed to have the necessary backup to review commercial cases, which the Mangano Administration had not provided at the time. County Attorney John Ciampoli asserted that the new review process was due to NIFA involvement, a claim that NIFA strongly disputed.

This pushback by legislative Democrats that resulted in the County Executive submitting the amendment is a victory for residents who have had their tax refunds held hostage by the Mangano Administration as they sought to lump all residential and commercial settlements together into a \$102 million bond.

"This amendment shows that we should never have gotten anything under \$100,000 or any of the residential refund cases", said Abrahams. "It is unbelievable that neither the Administration nor the Republican majority knew this. With moves like this they are becoming the poster children for incompetence."

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MAURICE CHALMERS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
BUDGET REVIEW



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501
(516) 571-6292

Inter-Departmental Memo

To: Hon. Kevan Abrahams, Minority Leader

From: Maurice Chalmers, Director
Office of Legislative Budget Review

Date: February 17, 2012

Re: Assessment Challenges

As per your request, the Office of Legislative Budget Review (OLBR) has prepared a schedule detailing the tax certiorari payments by month for 2010 and 2011. OLBR has also verified the available funds in capital project (9A413) Tax Certiorari Judgments. To date, there is approximately \$14.7 million available in proceeds to fund tax certiorari judgments in capital project 9A413. The following charts detail the payments made for commercial judgments, residential small claims, petitions as well as any cancellations and reductions for 2010 and 2011. In total, the County spent \$74.2 million in 2010 and \$39.3 million in 2011. The 2010 total of \$74.2 million includes \$56.4 million spent on commercial judgments, \$6.2 million on residential small claims, \$877,356 in petitions, and \$10.7 million in cancellations. The 2011 total of \$39.3 million includes \$28.6 million in commercial judgments, \$2.3 million in residential small claims, \$1.2 million in petitions and \$7.2 million in cancellations.

Commercial		
	2010 Judgments	2011 Judgments
January	\$2,868,918	\$0
February	\$2,986,140	\$2,159,413
March	\$5,674,264	\$521,697
April	\$9,669,735	\$2,075,181
May	\$5,581,003	\$7,960,706
June	\$5,653,561	\$3,554,864
July	\$4,295,759	\$0
August	\$4,033,859	\$0
September	\$4,505,609	\$9,016,114
October	\$3,545,217	\$3,410,186
November	\$1,948,286	(\$110,506)
December	\$5,611,513	\$0
	\$56,373,863	\$28,587,656

Residential		
	2010 Small Claims	2011 Small Claims
January	\$124,931	\$0
February	\$134,990	\$1,433,483
March	\$105,877	\$513,647
April	\$271,385	\$78,770
May	\$431,927	\$92,864
June	\$587,900	\$51,653
July	\$1,237,386	\$0
August	\$1,174,424	\$0
September	\$591,080	\$50,112
October	\$541,795	\$30,780
November	\$98,142	\$9,043
December	\$925,935	\$1,246
	\$6,225,771	\$2,261,596

Petitions		
	2010 Petitions	2011 Petitions
January	\$3,283	\$0
February	\$95,155	\$6,800
March	\$218,393	\$689,100
April	\$65,215	\$31,391
May	\$46,871	\$53,928
June	\$98,493	\$32,898
July	\$23,387	\$0
August	\$48,041	\$0
September	\$25,248	\$357,641
October	\$100,901	\$5,256
November	\$21,784	\$0
December	\$130,586	\$0
	\$877,356	\$1,177,012

Cancellations and Reductions		
	2010	2011
	\$10,739,033	\$7,235,028

Grand Total	\$74,216,024	\$39,261,292
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If you should have any questions, please let me know.

cc: David Gugerty, Minority Chief of Staff
Peter Clines, Democratic Minority Counsel
Aline Khatchadourian, Minority Finance Director

EDWARD P. MANGANO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE
MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501
516-571-3131

February 2012

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TAX REFUND

Dear Homeowner:

I am writing you with important information regarding your property tax refund. It appears for purely partisan political reasons, nine Democrat County Legislators are threatening to shut down county government and, in doing so, to deny you the property tax refund you are owed. Simply put, they are holding you hostage in a bid to force me to raise property taxes 25% on every homeowner in Nassau County, including you.

I want to assure you that I will not stand by quietly as they deny you the money you are owed!

Since taking office as County Executive, I have made reforming Nassau's property tax assessment system a top priority. I inherited a broken system that fails to settle tax grievances prior to finalizing the tax roll. The current system resulted in Nassau County owing over a billion dollars in refunds to home and business owners.

This is a debt I inherited from the prior administration. While the County Legislature passed my reforms in 2010 to fix this broken system under the law reforms cannot take effect until 2013, until then we must still settle the outstanding debt rightfully owed to you without raising property taxes. Much of this debt is over five years old.

Working in collaboration with the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA), I have set forth a plan to pay off Nassau's billion dollar debt **WITHOUT** hiking property taxes. The law requires the support of at least 13 County Legislators. Unfortunately, to date it appears only the 10 Republican County Legislators have supported this plan. We need the support of at least three additional Democrat County Legislators in order to pay you your money and to stop the Democrats from trying to force a 25% property tax hike on you.

How can you get your money and help stop their tax hike? Please contact YOUR legislator:

David Denenberg

(516) 571-6219

ddenenberg@nassaucountyny.gov

In fact, if you are acquainted with any of the following Democrat County Legislators who are playing politics with your wallet please contact them as well:

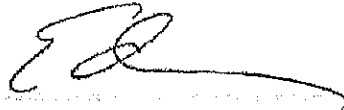
Joseph Scannell	(516) 571-6205	jscannell@nassaucountyny.gov
Keyan Abrahams	(516) 571-6201	kabrahams@nassaucountyny.gov
Robert Troiano	(516) 571-6202	rtroiano@nassaucountyny.gov
Judi Bosworth	(516) 571-6210	jbosworth@nassaucountyny.gov
Wayne Wink	(516) 571-6211	wwink@nassaucountyny.gov
Judith Jacobs	(516) 571-6216	jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov
Delia DeRiggi-Whitton	(516) 571-6218	dderiggiwhitton@nassaucountyny.gov
Carrie Solages	(516) 571-6203	csolages@nassaucountyny.gov

For too long, Nassau County residents have paid some of the highest taxes in the nation due to partisan politics that never address the solutions needed to fix our government. These political games will only come to an end when residents stand up to demand **no more property tax hikes**.

I have fought the special interest groups that influence your legislators and pick your pocket. I have cut waste and reduced the size of government. Now I am asking for you to stand up to your legislator and demand they pay you your money without raising your real property taxes.

If you have any questions or need assistance contacting a specific County Legislator, please call my office at 516-571-6000 or contact me by downloading the "Nassau Now" Mobile and Web application on your iPad or iPhone.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Mangano
County Executive

BODZIN STEPHEN & SUSAN
2553 HARBOR VW
BELLMORE, NY 11710