

City of Boston In City Council

Order

Regarding the Purchase of Real Estate by Tax Delinquent Real Estate Owners

By
Councillor Chuck Turner

April 8, 2009

- Whereas, the Boston Herald on Sunday, April 4th, revealed that the trusts owned by the Stamatou family of Jamaica Plain owe over \$800,000 in delinquent property taxes, interest, and code enforcement fines on 94 properties; and
- Whereas, the Boston Herald article also revealed that the Stamatou family has purchased over 40 foreclosed properties in the Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roslindale area since 2008 with some selling for as little as \$100,000; and
- Whereas, the City has a policy that bars the sale of city land to those who owe property taxes, fines, and water and sewer bills; and
- Whereas, residents have expressed outrage that a businessperson can owe almost \$1 million dollars to the City of Boston and have a legal right to continue to buy property; and
- Whereas, such complaints have pointed out that without such a bar to property tax scofflaws buying additional properties in Boston, real estate dealers can use money owed to the city to enhance their wealth. Therefore, Be It
- Ordered, that the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing and invite representatives of the Office of The Mayor, the Office of Corporation Council, and the Department of Neighborhood Development to discuss support by the City of Boston for a home rule petition to prevent the sale of properties in Boston to those who owe the City property taxes.