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Contact: Sage Erskine, 646-786-0898, sage.erskine@cnycn.org

Center for NYC Neighborhoods Launches Tax Lien Tracker

WHAT: The Center for NYC Neighborhoods has created a web-based tool that allows users to view the number of households on the Department of Finance's 30-day lien sale lists by City Council District and Community District. Users can learn how many households in each Council District or Community District have tax liens that are currently scheduled to be sold to third-party collection agencies on May 16th. Users can also see how many households with tax liens have also been affected by Hurricane Sandy.

WHERE: The Center's Website: cnycn.org/2014/04/tax-lien-tracker/

WHY: On May 16th, the NYC Department of Finance will sell property and water/sewer tax liens on thousands of properties across the city. Homeowners who owe taxes on their property may be at risk of having tax liens sold at auction. Once a tax lien is sold to a third-party collection agency, the company can add fees and high interest (up to 18%) onto the debt. Paying the debt can become overwhelming and unpaid tax liens may eventually lead to foreclosure.

Seniors, disabled individuals, or veterans, relatives of veterans, or active-duty military personnel, may qualify for an exemption by submitting the Exemption Eligibility Checklist or Military Request for Relief available on the Department of Finance website by May 15th. All others can enter into a payment plan of up to ten years with the City. Payment plans with the City are more affordable than payment plans with a collection agency. All payment agreements with the city must be finalized by May 15th.

Homeowners seeking help to obtain a payment agreement or complete exemption forms can call 311 to be connected to the Department of Finance. Outreach events for homeowners are being held citywide. A full list is available at nyc.gov/liensale.

About the Center for NYC Neighborhoods

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods was created in 2008 in response to the foreclosure crisis through the collaborative efforts of Mayor Bloomberg, the New York City Council, community advocates, foundations and corporate leaders. The Center's mission is to promote and protect affordable and sustainable homeownership in New York City. As the central hub of a diverse network of service providers, the Center leverages private and public resources to ensure that homeowners citywide have access to high quality foreclosure prevention services. Visit cnycn.org or twitter.com/cnycn for more information.

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