

July 13, 2006
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Hoyt and Stachowski announce collaboration between the Anti-Flipping Task Force and Erie County Clerk's Office

Assemblymember Sam Hoyt (D-Buffalo, Grand Island) and Senator William Stachowski (D- Erie) today announced the collaboration of the Mayor's Anti Flipping Task Force (AFTF) and the Erie County Clerk's Office on the collection of real estate data. Assemblymember Hoyt and Senator Stachowski Co-Chair the AFTF, with the mission to combat the unsavory real estate practices of unethical and fraudulent property flipping that contributes to neighborhood destabilization and community disinvestment.

Assemblymember Hoyt said, "One of the most important paths the AFTF can take involves the collection of data by members of the AFTF, which would allow us to establish a pattern of abuse, while also allowing us to make a criminal case against these unscrupulous individuals." Senator Stachowski said, "Unethical property flipping is most readily addressed through collective efforts. We are pleased by the collaboration with the Erie County Clerk's Office."

Erie County, through the representation of the County Clerk David Swarts, has been a member of the AFTF since its inception and was eager to assist the AFTF with data essential to the analysis of unethical property flipping patterns. In a recent meeting between the AFTF and Erie County Clerk David Swarts, the parties agreed to share five years of real estate transaction data. Additionally, the AFTF was granted free, electronic access to county records.

The AFTF has analyzed real estate transaction data provided by the City of Buffalo Department of Assessment and Taxation, accessed with the assistance of NYS Office of Real Property Services. This collaboration with Erie County will provide the additional resources necessary to analyze the unethical property flipping in the City of Buffalo, and ultimately to curb this destructive practice. In order to achieve sustainable solutions to the multidimensional problem of unethical property flipping, the AFTF has encouraged and fostered collaboration. This agreement between the AFTF and the Erie County Clerk's office will assist the AFTF in its efforts to remedy this unethical practice and strengthen Buffalo neighborhoods.

*Sam Hoyt represents the 144th Assembly District
William Stachowski represents the 58th Senate District*