

Tax Reform
Action Coalition
867 West Buckingham
Chicago, IL 60657
312-458-9202
www.trac-il.org

Neighborhood & Community Groups Supporting TRAC

Bucktown Community
Organization
Citizens for Fair
Assessments & Taxes
East Lakeview Neighbors
Edgewater Community
Council
Friends of Holstein Park
Hamlin Park
Neighborhood Assn.
Hawthorne Neighbors
Jefferson Park
Neighborhood Assn.
Lake View Citizens' Council
Lincoln Central
North Logan Block Club
Northcenter Chamber of
Commerce
Northcenter/Lincoln Square
Neighborhood Assn.
Old Irving Park Association
One For All Chicago
Portage Park
Neighborhood Assn.
Southport Neighbors
Triangle Neighbors
U.N.I.T.E. Civic
Ukrainian Village
Preservation Society
West DePaul
Neighborhood Association
West Walker Association
Wrightwood Neighbors

Hundreds Protest Property Taxes At Lincoln Park "Tea Party"

More than 500 people were on hand to protest the triennial tax reassessment on August 14 in Lincoln Park -- despite the blackouts on the East Coast. City neighborhoods were well represented with more than 25 groups signing on to support TRAC. A limited number of city and county officials were present along with Lt. Governor Pat Quinn.

Impassioned speakers Enid Becker, Ana Paz and Richard Mazzuca shared their stories with those in the audience who held signs in protest. Signs read "Help Us Mayor Daley," "Reform and Repeal," and a group of small children held a sign stating they were "City Children" and that they don't want to be forced to move to the suburbs.

Fr. Dominic Grassi spoke of unity and diversity. "We must stand united. It is in the interest of each of us to care

about all of us. The diversity that is being lost in our neighborhoods will never be able to be replaced. And no matter how wealthy a neighborhood is perceived to be, it loses its true richness without that diversity of age, of nationality, of race, of income, of backgrounds."

"We will continue to let our voices be heard and our votes counted. You politicians ain't heard or seen nothing yet. It doesn't matter what political party you belong to, we will support you if you take the moral high ground with us and be assured that we will vote you out of office if you do not. Know this: right will prevail. Good will win out. Justice must be achieved. Let the reform begin."

We would like to thank our Lt. Governor Pat Quinn for coming and standing with TRAC and all the people



that were there to fight for real property tax reform.

County Commissioners Michael Quigley and Forrest Claypool continue to show their commitment to their constituents by fighting for reform.

Our champions at the city level include Ald. Gene Schulner (44th Ward) and Ald. Manny Flores (1st Ward).

And a special thank you for everyone who worked so hard to make this event happen -- and a success!



Call to Action – Keep the party going!

At the end of the Tea Party we asked everyone to call the Mayor (312-744-3300), call your alderman, call your state lawmakers! The message is simple and easy. Repeal the triennial reassessment and reform the property tax system. Let's keep it going! There are still three more townships that haven't received their notices yet! Keep this issue in front of everyone! Make those calls! Send those faxes! Write those emails! Enlist your family and friends!

You can go to our web site www.trac-il.org for more information.

Upcoming Events!

TRAC is hittin' the road!

We have a few people that can come out and address your community and talk about the reform effort.

So far we have been to Hamlin Park, Ald. Flores' meeting in the 1st Ward, and will be going to the Bucktown Community Organization, South Lake View Neighbors, Ecker Park, and the Old Irving Park Association.

Call us at 312-458-9202 or visit us at trac-il.org.



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.trac-il.org

TRAC Delivered!

As promised, the Mayor now has your "tea bags!" We delivered your messages to the mayor at his budget hearing August 28. In a short speech before the Mayor and his cabinet, we again asked the Mayor to help us by being our advocate on property tax reform all the way to Springfield. Stayed tuned!



Yard Sign Campaign

One of our volunteers thought that we needed more visibility! So TRAC is developing a yard and window sign campaign.

We are looking for printing companies to help us with the making of these signs. We are also contacting Aldermen to see if they can help us.

We would like this campaign to start the day this years tax bills are due, which is October 1st.

These signs would be displayed in front yards and windows throughout the city for the whole month of October and beyond.

So if you or someone you know can help us get this program started, please call us.

And we'll keep you posted. Check our web site at trac-il.org toward the middle of September.



Sept. 29 Seminar: Getting the Real Facts!

TRAC thinks it is time for the truth to come out! It is time for all of us to know why our taxes keep going up and what we can REALLY do about it! No more double talk! TRAC is fortunate to be working with Art Lyons, PhD, who is the Director for the Center on Economic Policy Analysis and runs the masters program in community organizing at North Park University. Among his extensive credentials Dr. Lyons has been analyzing property taxes for over 30 years and was at one time the highest-ranking non-elected official at the Cook County Board of Property Tax Assessment Review. He was also hired by the Philadelphia City Council to evaluate that city's property tax system. We think he might know where the bodies are buried in our system! This seminar is intended to shed some light on the complex tax system and to discuss a few of the proposals that are currently being offered for relief and reform. Everyone is invited. We are encouraging community groups to send at least one person that can then report back to their group. Knowledge is power. This will enable us to work for the right kind of reform. The seminar will be Monday, September 29, at St. Josaphat, 2311 N. Southport, in the school's basement. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. The seminar will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a question and answer period at the end. The fee is \$10.00; \$5.00 for seniors. Parking is available behind the church on Lakewood. Please R.S.V.P. to trac-il.org or call 312-458-9202.

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