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TAX LIEN FORECLOSURES DOUBLE

Comptroller Auerbach Warns County Leaders

KINGSTON, NY (April 20, 2009)... In 2007 there were sixty-six (66) properties listed for sale at Ulster County's Public Auction. Twenty-four months later those numbers have more than doubled to one hundred thirty-four (134). The 2008 Public Auction catalog also reveals that the amounts owed to the County for properties three (3) or more years in arrears have gone up by 55% since the 2007 sale, from \$1,016,264.98 to \$1,580,288.92.

"Unpaid property taxes are trending upward" says Ulster County's first Comptroller, Elliott Auerbach. He calls it a sign of the tough economic times we are living in and is fearful that it is a harbinger of things to come if we cannot offer property owners some relief.

Comptroller Auerbach says that the 134 properties listed for sale is an extremely small percentage compared to the 84,390 properties listed as taxable parcels in the 2008 Ulster County Real Property report, but he warns County leaders not to be lulled into thinking things are just fine since property tax accounts for 21% of Ulster County's projected revenue.

The County of Ulster's Public Auction will be held at SUNY ULSTER in Vanderlyn Hall on April 17, 2008 at 9:30 AM. The complete listing of properties can be found on the County website at www.ulstercountyny.gov/finance

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