



City of Buffalo

Mayor's Anti-Flipping Task Force



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EAST SIDE PROPERTY REMOVED FROM EBAY

BUFFALO— The Mayor's Anti-Flipping Task Force today announced the successful removal of a Buffalo property listed on eBay. The property, formerly St. Matthew's Church at 1066 East Ferry Street, was removed thanks to the collective efforts of the City of Buffalo, the Task Force and the property owner. The property was purchased at the City of Buffalo's In-Rem auction in October 2006.

"The fact that the public is aware of the efforts of the Anti-Flipping Task Force and that they seek out recommendations on property sales shows that our message is getting out effectively," said Mayor Byron W. Brown. "The community, the AFTF, the City of Buffalo, New York State, and the seller all came together to remove this property from eBay. This shows how serious we are about preventing fraudulent flipping in the City of Buffalo."

State Senator Stachowski, AFTF Co-Chair stated, "The AFTF has been very diligent and thorough in exploring ways we can prevent illegal flipping in the City of Buffalo. This is a perfect example of a potential illegal flip, but better yet, it's a perfect example of the AFTF's ability to respond to a situation of this nature."

"This decisive action is further indication that the AFTF is achieving the results that we hoped it would when we created the Task Force two years ago," said Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Co-Chair of the AFTF.

Members of the community contacted the Mayor's Anti-Flipping Task Force with concerns about the property listing on eBay. The AFTF then contacted the City of Buffalo Department of Economic Development, Permit and Inspection Services, the Department of Law and the Office of Strategic Planning to establish whether the sale on eBay violated provisions of the In-Rem contract. The City concluded that the proposed

sale would violate the terms of the City contract. The AFTF notified the owner and he withdrew the property from eBay.

“We are very pleased that this process worked effectively and quickly. This experience demonstrates that the community, AFTF members, and the City of Buffalo, are committed to protecting Buffalo neighborhoods. We have succeeded in preventing a cycle of destructive flipping with respect to a significant East Side property” said Kathleen A. Lynch, Esq., AFTF Coordinator.