

Newsletters | Contact Us



Full Site Search

Quiz: Weekly News in Review
Put your news knowledge to the test »



News | Weather | Video | Traffic | Sports | Community | Participate | Entertainment | On Air | Online Guides | CT Style

Home : News : New Haven City :

Video Photo Map



Click to Watch Video

Tax flap public hearing in New Haven

Updated: Monday, 26 Jul 2010, 11:37 PM EDT
Published: Monday, 26 Jul 2010, 4:40 PM EDT

By: Erin Cox and Jamie Muro

New Haven, Conn. (WTNH) - The talk was taxes in New Haven Monday night at a public hearing where taxpayers spoke their minds.

The tax assessor's office, specifically William O'Brien, has been under fire as of late by New Haven taxpayers over what they believe are unfair, exorbitant assessment, as well as a lack of courtesy.

Earlier Monday, the mayor of New Haven addressed the flood of complaints coming from taxpayers about the tax assessor.

As an army veteran, Linda Taylor shouldn't even be getting a car tax bill. "It don't make sense. They billed me and it's supposed to be exempt," she said.

About two dozen senior citizens were also billed in error. They will be getting refunds -- just one measure the city announced to address "concerns" about practices and customer service.

"These are financial and we need to work to recreate environments that take the antagonism out of them," said Mayor John DeStefano (D-New Haven).

It got so bad a dozen board of aldermen signed a letter demanding tax assessor William O'Brien be fired. The letter claims he was hostile with folks questioning car assessments and wrongly inflated some personal property assessments.

"They've been treated unfairly and every time they come down to the tax assessor's office it's bad service to different things that have done on at the assessor's office," said Alderman Greg Morehead.

O'Brien will stay on the job but the mayor outlined a list of customer service improvements including video and audio taping of office interactions.

The Tax Abatement Committee held a public hearing Monday night that went on for hours.

Barbara Iannaccone did not mince words. "This tax assessor! He is the most rudest man, and he needs to control the people in the office. They don't talk to people, they're very rude and sarcastic. They hang up on you."

Tax Assessor William O'Brien was suppose to speak during the public hearing, but as of 11:05 p.m., he had not yet spoken.

Helen Martin-Dawson of New Haven said, "You go up on the car taxes, the property taxes, and the city gives us nothing."

Other news in New Haven

- Financial push for high-speed rail line**
The State of Connecticut is trying to move full steam ahead on ...
- Construction crew hits gas main**
A construction crew working in New Haven struck a high-pressure...
- New Haven cracks down on crime**
New Haven's new police chief has a new plan to combat crime in ...
- New strategy for New Haven police**
The New Haven Police Department kicks off a new program to try ...

Advertisement

The mayor also talked about efforts to improve the operation of the Tax Abatement Committee. He says he will make more appointments and get better training.

Other improvements the mayor outlined are:

Bookmark This Email This Print This View Story on a Single Page

Advertisement

What's hot on WTNH.com today

- Firefighter died of smoke inhalation
- Crash kills two on I-91
- 2 CT firefighters perish, probe begins
- 2 Bpt. firefighters die in line of duty
- CT Weather Forecast

Advertisement

The News in Photos



Photos: Tugs pull bridge across river
A prefabricated 350-foot-long bridge that will replace a 109-year-old span ...

More Photos »

Site Tools

- RSS Feeds
- Newsletters
- Facebook
- iPulse Widget
- Mobile
- Twitter
- Text Alerts
- Report It

Sponsored Links

SECRET: Penny Auction Trick
Find out how to get a MacBook for \$24.73. See what eBay has been HIDING from you!
www.ctips.net

- Installations of audio feature for cameras that will record in assessor's and tax collector's office, which will happen in 60 days.
- Maintain logs of customer concerns/complaints.
- Provide feedback cards to measure customer satisfaction in both offices.
- All calls to both offices will be recorded, which will happen in 60 days.
- Customer service training of employees in both offices.

Stay with News 8 for more on this story.

Fast Teeth Whitening

Get A Better, Brighter Smile. Search In Your Local Area Now. JustClickLocal.com

Report: iPad 4G for \$11.44!

iPads, Google Phones, etc. Shop, play and save a fortune. Start Now! USAConsumerReviews.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Share Your Thoughts

Please share your opinions responsibly.

Opinions that are derogatory, attack other users or are offensive in nature may be removed as defined by the Terms of Service. WTNH is not responsible for the content posted in this comment section. We reserve the right to remove any offensive or off-topic remark or thread. To mark a comment for review by a moderator, click "Report Abuse."

SHARE   

0 

 Buzz It

 Login 

Comments (50)

Sort by: [Date](#) [Rating](#) [Last Activity](#)

 Michael · 15 hours ago +4  

Army vets don't have to pay motor vehicle taxes? More power to them!

[Reply](#) ▶ 3 replies · active 8 hours ago

[Report](#)

 cash money · 15 hours ago 0  

Having lived here for a few years and paid the inflated property taxes I can honestly say that New Haven is corrupt to its core. They will do ANYTHING in this city to trick you into paying taxes you don't really owe.

[Reply](#) ▶ 1 reply · active 51 minutes ago

[Report](#)

 Luv2hayt · 15 hours ago +3  

The aldermen want O'Brien out because he is a white male. Firing him will open up a job for an Affirmative Action appointment (no experience necessary)

[Reply](#) ▶ 3 replies · active 48 minutes ago

[Report](#)

 Upside down · 15 hours ago +5  

I'm sorry but this report doesn't make a damn bit of sense. How the heck is the tax formula applied in NH? Is it some concocted fly by the seat of the pants formula or is it administered uniformly according to certain criteria? The mayors quote makes him sound like an idiot. He probably is anyway judging from other reports about him and NH. But for cryin' out loud, WTNH how about writing and posting a coherent news report!!

Latest Connecticut News

- Firefighters died in illegal apartment
- Death penalty arguments in Hayes case
- Worker hit on I-91 construction site
- Financial push for high-speed rail line
- Conn.'s Weicker honored for ADA legacy
- Removing PCBs from Housatonic River
- Services for fallen Conn. firefighters
- Puppy stolen from Conn. Humane Society
- Time, money running out for Schiff
- Tax flap public hearing in New Haven

[More CT News »](#)

 [MAP THESE](#)

[News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Video](#) | [Traffic](#) | [Sports](#) | [Community](#) | [Participate](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [On Air](#) | [Online Guides](#) | [CT Style](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [LIN Interactive](#) | [EEO Public File Report](#) | [FCC 388 Digital File](#)

All content (c) Copyright 2000 - 2010 LIN Television Corporation. All Rights Reserved.