



Mayor Anita Dugatto

City of Derby, Connecticut

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR DUGATTO SAYS, "PAY UP"

DERBY – With tax season upon us, Mayor Anita Dugatto is reminding property owners about the importance of paying their property taxes, even in these tough economic times.

"I know it can be financially difficult for some people to pay their taxes on time, but the city relies on this revenue to fund public safety, highway maintenance, city improvements, education, and many other important services our residents and business owners depend on," Dugatto said.

As in most cities and towns, tax revenue is Derby's largest source of income.

"I want to especially thank those property owners who *do* pay their taxes on time," Dugatto said. "I appreciate their commitment to our city."

Current tax bills are due no later than August 1, 2014. To assist residents in making timely payments, the Derby tax office will be open extended hours during the month of July.

In the past, not everyone has been prompt in paying. There is a long list of residential and commercial property owners who have not yet paid their taxes from previous years. The list of delinquent taxpayers, which is a public document, can be viewed in Derby's tax office.

Dugatto acknowledged Derby Tax Collector, Denise Cesaroni, and her team for their diligence in collecting back taxes. In fact, back tax collections are at record highs.

Despite this, Dugatto was disheartened to learn that many property owners who owe back taxes have not made any attempt to satisfy their obligations. "As a taxpayer and city leader, this angers me," Dugatto said.

Cesaroni pointed out, "It is costly for property owners to disregard their tax bills. By state statute, Derby is required to charge 18% interest on any outstanding tax liability and the charge cannot be waived. In addition, the city is permitted to place a lien on a property where back taxes are owed." This year, a notice will appear on the face of Derby tax bills alerting property owners if there are back taxes due.

"Whether it's \$50 or \$50,000, Derby is counting on that money," Dugatto said. "Our tax office will continue to make every effort to collect every tax dollar the city is owed."

The Derby tax office is located on the main floor of Derby City Hall, 1 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT. Regular office hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Through the month of July, the tax office will remain open every Tuesday until 7:00pm.