

URGENT LEGAL ALERT- IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Yesterday Allegheny County's new Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced that he unilaterally tossed out the reassessment. Notwithstanding this announcement, Allegheny County's reassessment is still on and, **we strongly advise property owners to continue to file informal and formal appeals.** Deadlines to file are January 13 and February 10, respectively.

The Reassessment Stands. Allegheny County is under Order from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reassess. The Supreme Court ordered Allegheny County Judge Wettick to oversee the reassessment. The County Executive's announcement is sending a confusing message to owners that they can ignore the assessment notices and appeal deadlines. That is not right. The County Executive does not have authority to defy a court order and, as of now, **the Supreme Court's order stands and the reassessment will go forward.**

2012 Values Taken Offline. Moments ago, the County took off the 2012 assessed values offline. We anticipated this and we printed the overwhelming majority of Siegel Siegel Johnson & Jennings clients' 2012 values before online access was shut down. Commercial property values were online only from 3:30 on January 4 until 10 a.m. today. Many commercial owners did not receive their paper notices – these owners should appeal anyway to protect their rights. If necessary, appeals can be withdrawn later without harm.

File Your Appeal. We advise owners to protect their interests by filing appeals. We will continue to monitor and advise on the developing situation in the County. Please call us with any general or property-specific questions you have.

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