



State of Maryland
Department of Assessments & Taxation
Office of the Director

Larry Hogan
Governor

Owen C. Charles
Acting Director

NEWS *release*

SDAT Warns Homeowners of Misleading Property Assessment Letter *- Some Homeowners Being Misled by Property Assessment Appeals Flyers -*

Baltimore, Md. (June 2, 2015) – The State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation’s acting Director, Owen Charles, is warning property owners in Maryland to be on the alert for an official looking mailer from a private company with a misleading promise of a reduction in their property tax.

“SDAT was recently made aware of a mailing to Maryland homeowners that looks like an official notice from a government agency. The notice reads *‘real property overassessment important information for property owners’*. The company is offering to file an appeal on a property owner’s behalf for a filing fee of \$99.00,” said Mr. Charles. “I strongly urge any homeowner who receives this letter to be mindful of its content and of the filing fee. SDAT **never** charges a fee for filing a petition to review or for any other property assessment appeal. Also, the deadline for filing a Petition for Review with the department is December 31, not June 1 as the company’s letter indicates. SDAT is not a part of this questionable business practice in which there is no guarantee that an appeal will result in a property tax savings.”

Property owners have the right to appeal their property assessments. A property owner should file an appeal when they believe their property is not valued at current market value.

(MORE)

SDAT provides **free** filing of assessment appeals for homeowners to dispute the values determined by the department. There are three instances when appeals may be filed:

- upon receipt of an assessment notice;
- by a petition for review;
- upon purchase of property between January 1 and June 30.

For more information, specific guidelines on appealing property assessments, and a **free** petition form, please visit SDAT's [website](#).

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