

we're equipping homeowners with the tools they need to minimize their risk and stop scammers in their tracks," said Fitzgerald.

NeighborWorks® America is coordinating the "Loan Modification Scam Alert" campaign nationwide through its 235 community-based affiliates and other local, state and national partner organizations, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. For more information about the campaign, visit www.LoanScamAlert.org.

DCA enforces the Consumer Protection Law and other related business laws throughout New York City. Ensuring a fair and vibrant marketplace for consumers and businesses, DCA licenses more than 71,000 businesses in 57 different industries. Through targeted outreach, partnerships with community and trade organizations, and informational materials, DCA educates consumers and businesses alike about their rights and responsibilities. DCA's Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) is the first municipal office of its kind in the nation with a mission to educate, empower and protect New Yorkers with low incomes. DCA's OFE administers a citywide network of Financial Empowerment Centers and other products and services that help these New Yorkers make the best use of their financial resources to move forward economically. For more information, call 311 or visit DCA online at nyc.gov/consumers.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Kay Sarlin/Elizabeth Miller, Department of Consumer Affairs, (212) 487-4283
Cassie Salinas, One Economy Corporation, (503) 542-0862

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER MINTZ ANNOUNCE
FIRST ONLINE FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE**

***New Yorkers Earning Less than \$58,000 Can Learn How to File Their Taxes
Free by Visiting nyc.gov/OnlineFreeTaxPrep***

***City Estimates Nearly 2.7 Million New Yorkers Qualify for the City's New Fr
Tax Preparation Service***

As part of Mayor Bloomberg's 8th Annual Tax Credit Campaign spearheaded by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE), Commissioner Jonathan Mintz today announced the City's first ever online free tax preparation service for City residents available by visiting nyc.gov/OnlineFreeTaxPrep. New Yorkers who earn \$58,000 or less per tax return qualify to prepare and electronically file their tax returns for free. The service is powered by One Economy Corporation – a nonprofit that leverages the power of technology to empower people to enter the economic mainstream – with their online tax filing software The Beehive. In 2007, nearly 2.5 million New Yorkers paid to have their income tax returns prepared. The City estimates that more than 2.7 million New Yorkers may qualify for this free online tax preparation service.

"New York is a do-it-yourself kind of City where people like to get things done quickly. That's why we are excited to offer this free online tax filing program in conjunction with our partners at Beehive," said Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz. "Now that everyone has their W-2 forms, why not file quickly and claim every dollar of tax credits you have coming to you? Visit nyc.gov/OnlineFreeTaxPrep and go get your refund!"

"One Economy created an online tax filing platform to make it easier for low- and moderate-income Americans to get the credits and refunds they deserve," said Rey Ramsey, Chairman of One Economy. "With the support of our partners, we are able to take our digital tools and resources directly into the community and provide local taxpayers with the knowledge and confidence to file online themselves."

Online Free Tax Preparation

City residents interested in filing their taxes online using the City's new service should visit nyc.gov/OnlineFreeTaxPrep and make sure they have the following information:

- An e-mail address
- 2008 Adjusted Gross Income
- W-2 forms from all employers
- All 1098 and 1099 forms
- Proof of any other income, e.g. lottery winnings
- Total paid for child care provider and the provider's Taxpayer Identification Number or SSN (if claiming the New York City Child Care Tax Credit)
 - Bank account and routing numbers (if direct depositing a refund)
- Name, address, and phone number of landlord (if claiming the Renter's Credit)

When preparing tax returns online, City residents should type in "NYC" not "New York" when prompted to fill in their locality from Box 20 on the W-2 form.

Assisted Online Free Tax Preparation

In addition to this new online tax filing service, the City also offers drop-in locations where certified tax specialists from Food Bank for New York can assist New Yorkers with filing their taxes online and answer any question they may have. The following locations offer assisted online tax preparation:

- Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)
76 Wadsworth Avenue New York, NY 10033-7038
 - St. John's Bread & Life
795 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221
 - CAMBA
1117 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11213 (Enter on Utica Ave.)
 - Mid-Bronx Senior Citizens Council
1125 Grand Concourse (between McClellan St. and E. 166th St.), Bronx, NY 10451

New York City's Tax Credit Coalition Campaign is supported in part by donations made to the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. Funders include H&R Block, Bank of America, BNY Mellon, Citi, ConEd, Fidelity Investments and M&T Bank. The campaign includes partnering city agencies, non-profit organizations, the IRS and media sponsors the *Daily News*, *El Diario* and Hot 97.

The Mayor's Fund is a not-for-profit organization established to strengthen public

programs serving the needs and general welfare of New Yorkers. To learn more about the Mayor's Fund, or to make a contribution to the Tax Credit Coalition Campaign, visit nyc.gov or call 311 and ask about making financial contributions to New York City.

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Thursday, January 21, 2010

Kay Sarlin/Elizabeth Miller, (212) 487-4283

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER
JONATHAN MINTZ KICKS OFF TAX SEASON BY ANNOUNCING
THE CITY'S FIRST EVER FREE 'TAX REFUND SUPER SATURDAY'
EVENT**

***City Launches 8th Annual Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition
Campaign with One-Day Event Offering Free Tax Preparation for
Hundreds of New Yorkers who Qualify to Claim Tax Credits That Put
Money Back in their Pockets***

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Jonathan Mintz today announced the City's first ever free 'Tax Refund Super Saturday' event. 'Tax Refund Super Saturday' will be held at the CUNY Graduate Center (365 Fifth Avenue, between 34th and 35th Streets) on Saturday, January 23 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., kicking off the City's 8th Annual Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition Campaign. The Saturday event will offer free tax preparation for New Yorkers who have dependent children and earn less than \$50,000, and City residents who have no children and earn less than \$18,000. Tax preparers will check if City residents qualify for the EITC, the NYC Child Care Tax Credit and other tax credits that could put money back in their pockets. The average EITC refund alone is \$2,700. Tax preparation