



**BROOME COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

**Richard R. Blythe, County Clerk  
Sharon Exley, Executive Deputy County Clerk**

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June 6, 2005

Hon. Barbara Fiala, County Executive  
Broome County, NY

Hon. Daniel A. Schofield, Chairman  
Broome County Legislature

RE: Annual Report for 2005 – Office of the County Clerk

Dear Executive Fiala and Chairman Schofield:

Attached, please find various reports for 2005 for the County Clerk's Office.

2005 was a transition year for the County Clerk's Office.

- The position of County Clerk was vacant during January and most of February of 2005 due to the November, 2004 election of County Clerk Barbara Fiala to the post of Broome County Executive.
- During 2005, several members of former County Clerk's staff received appointments in the new County Executive's administration including:
  - Executive Deputy, Henry Weissmann to the post of Commissioner of Public Works.
  - Records Manager, Susan DiBenedetto to the post of Director of Employment and Training. (Mrs. DiBenedetto returned to her job as Records Manager in 2006.)
  - Deputy County Clerk for DMV, Tammy Kocak to the post of Administrative Assistant to the County Executive.

The three individuals, noted above, continue to be a ready resource of information and advice to the new County Clerk and staff and their efforts are very much appreciated.

- On February 16, 2005, Governor George Pataki appointed Richard R. Blythe of Windsor, NY to fill the unexpired term of County Clerk. Mr. Blythe took the Oath of Office on Friday, February 18, 2005 and started work on Tuesday, February 22, 2005. He was elected to a full term for the office of County Clerk at the November, 2005 General Election. Mr. Blythe had previously served as a County Legislator, Clerk of the Legislature and Director of Purchasing.



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The following items were especially noteworthy:

- Statistics of interest include a 6% increase in the number of deeds filed in the Clerk's Office and an overall increase of 13.7% in the number of total recordings.
- During 2005, arrangements were made to install public restrooms at both the Endicott and Clinton Street Offices.
- A new Mobile DMV Unit is now operational in the Towns of Conklin and Triangle, in large part to a member item grant from Senator Libous.
- DMV fee increases late in 2005 resulted in an increase in County Revenue during November and December, continuing into 2006.
- A microfilming project was completed resulting in the production of a new set of microfilm masters of deeds and mortgages from 1806 to the present.
- Over 70 large books in the Clerk's Office containing deed records, mortgage records, and other types of documents were repaired via installation of new covers, helping to protect the documents within the book.
- During December of 2005, the County Clerk's Office received notification from the U.S. Passport Agency informing us of a new national policy; prohibiting passport applications from being processed at motor vehicle offices. However we suspect that this policy change was in the works long ago and from the Broome County perspective it would have been nice if we knew about this change before our 2006 Budget was adopted as we had anticipated revenues of approximately \$30,000 from passport processing.

Until this matter was clarified, the Clerk's Office had to suspend passport processing at the County Clerk's Office due to our proximity to a DMV Office. This prohibition was lifted in early January of 2006.

- The Clerk's Office worked with the staff of NBT Bank to install new software for the management of the principal account. The number of bank accounts was reduced during 2005.



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- In the wake of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, many community organizations sought ways to assist those people who lost so much. For the first time in recent memory, the County DMV Offices were utilized as collection centers for donations to the Red Cross.
- The DMV also assisted in collecting items for our servicemen and women serving overseas and instituted a special ongoing program to assist veterans in the ordering of veteran's related license plates. Eight of Broome County's ten Gold Star Mothers were eligible for the special 'Gold Star Mother' license plate and these plates were obtained by the Clerk at no cost to the recipients.
- Two public meetings were held by the Clerk; one at the Clinton Street DMV and one at the Endicott DMV. A DMV customer satisfaction survey was instituted and two informational meetings were held with clerks from local car dealerships.
- An informational meeting was held with title searchers. As a result of that meeting and with the assistance of the County Executive, computer access to Real Property's RPS system was established in the Clerk's office.

Projects from 2004-2005 carried over into 2006 include:

- Credit card payments for downloading of documents from the County Clerk's website. This requires the establishment of a payment gateway and additional programming by Exigent.
- Scanning of civil action files: the Court Records Project. This requires the establishment of new protocols for the amount and type of information that can be made public. A new scanner and upgraded software was purchased to be used for this project.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Blythe

Attachments

RECORDS DIVISION  
2005  
TRANSACTIONS

**RECORDINGS**

Deeds	6,436
Deeds Related (i.e., Easements, agreements, leases, assignment of lease, land contract, miscellaneous deeds)	7,334
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>13,770</b>
Mortgages	7,717
Discharge	6,378
Assignment	962
Modifications	116
Subordinations	128
Consolidations	5
Spreader Agreements	1
Mortgage Corrections	14
Partial Releases	70
Releases	2
Miscellaneous	482
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>15,875</b>
Power of Attorneys	702
Revocation of POA	20
Release of Estate Lien	288
Release of Judgment	34
Resolutions	14
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,058</b>

Lis Pendens	453
Transfer Tax Documents	319
Misc. Real Estate Documents	30
Building & Loan Agreements	133
Notice of Lending	82
Mortgage Tax Affidavits	6
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,023</b>
Separation Agreements	106
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>
Certificates of Dissolution	687
Maps	24
Notary Authentication	129
Passports	38
Notice of Lien	5
Miscellaneous	245
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,128</b>
<b><u>TOTAL 2005 RECORDINGS</u></b>	<b>32,960</b>

RECORDS DIVISION  
2005  
TRANSACTIONS

**FILINGS**

Business Certificate	1,058
Amended Business Name	37
Dissolution of Business	227
Corporations	188
Amended Corporations	63
Partnerships	67
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,640</b>
Civil Actions	2,425
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,425</b>
Court Related	295
(Note of Issue, Jury Demand, RJI, Civil Appeal, Small Claims)	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>
Stipulations of Discontinuance	500
Motions	1,547
Statements for Judgment	420
Third Party Actions	16
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,483</b>
Criminal	747
Surcharges Processed	212
Sealed Files	138
Youthful Offender Sealed Files	105
Sealed Indictments	77
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,279</b>

Judgments	666
Transcripts of Judgments	4,259
Satisfactions of Judgment	1,610
Partial Satisfactions of Judgment	44
Miscellaneous Judgments	40
Income Executions	800
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,419</b>
Federal Tax Liens	133
State Tax Liens	2,031
County Foreclosures	2,653
City Foreclosures	953
UCC 1	262
Welfare Liens	148
Hospital Liens	14
UCC 3	385
UCC 11	85
Mechanics Liens	42
Affidavits	33
Bonds	3
Undertakings	5
Releases of Federal Tax Liens	110
Federal Judgment Liens	8
Release of State Tax Liens	933
Release of City Foreclosures	9
Release of Mechanics Liens	1
Environmental Liens	4
Miscellaneous Tax Liens	131
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,943</b>
<b><u>TOTAL FILINGS</u></b>	<b>23,484</b>

**RECORDS DIVISION  
2005  
MAJOR REVENUES**

County Fee		\$716,450.44
Notaries	(496)	\$9,920.00
STOP DWI		\$4,000.00
Records Management		\$410,210.00
Mortgage		\$6,239,186.00
County Transfer Tax		\$4,433.00
Transfer Tax		\$1,159,522.00
Unified Court		\$427,296.00
E & A		\$444,204.00
Interest		\$15,115.20
Passports	(38)	\$1,140.00

**RECORDS DIVISION  
2005  
MAJOR DISBURSEMENTS**

**PAYMENTS TO NEW YORK STATE**

County Fee (aka Unified Court Fees)	\$427,296.32
Equalization & Assessment	\$444,204.00
Mortgage Tax (SONYMA)	\$1,297,307.61
Records Management	\$410,210.00
Transfer Tax	\$1,159,522.00
Notaries	\$19,480.00

**PAYMENTS TO BROOME COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE**

Clerk Fees (300012•0015•101000)	\$1,031,675.45
Mortgage Tax (300012•0017•101000) (Also known as 'Clerk for Hire' retention)	\$243,145.44
Earned Credits (300012•0186•101000)	\$16,050.61
STOP DWI (820001•0203•101000)	\$4,000.00
Transfer Tax – Veterans Service Agency (Dedicated) (420000•0616•101000)	\$472,215.50

**MORTGAGE TAX DISTRIBUTION**

Mortgage Tax – Office for Aging (Dedicated) (760017•0017•101000)	\$1,463,061.41
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See attached Mortgage Tax Annual Report

See attached resolutions for 2005 distributions to local municipalities.