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Jackson County postpones delinquent land tax sales

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Jackson County is announcing today that its delinquent land tax sales scheduled for next month have been postponed due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

The County filed a motion with the 16th Circuit Judicial Court asking to delay the delinquent land tax sales to protect the health and safety of residents. Presiding Judge David M. Byrn granted the motion to delay late yesterday afternoon, stating, "it would be extremely difficult or impossible to proceed" with the sale and comply with health orders in effect to mitigate the spread of novel coronavirus.

"We understand this is a very difficult time physically, emotionally and financially for our residents at no fault of their own, and we want to support them as best we can. No one should fear losing their home during a global health pandemic," said Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. "I appreciate the proactive efforts by Director of Collection Whitney Miller and Presiding Judge David Bryn to ensure we keep the health and well-being of our community first."

"I am confident this is the best decision for Jackson County taxpayers, many of whom are facing new and unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19," said Director of Collection Whitney Miller. "The Department of Collection will continue to work with taxpayers and taxing jurisdictions to ensure everyone is aware of the process moving forward."

Every year, the County holds two delinquent land tax sales at the Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City and the Eastern Jackson County Courthouse in Independence, which are conducted by the Jackson County Circuit Court Administrator. As of today, there are more than 1,000 properties set to have been sold in the tax sale next month. Properties with three years of delinquent taxes face a foreclosure sale to recover unpaid taxes and assessments.

The delinquent land tax sales are postponed until the Court orders them to proceed. Impacted taxpayers will receive notice of this change via regular mail and can find additional information at www.jacksongov.org.