

1401 JFK Blvd, Room 1440
Municipal Services Building
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tel: (215) 686-2140
Fax: (215) 686-2123

Edward A. Schwartz
Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2003

Contact: Robin Leary
(215) 686-2142
(215) 275-1297 cell

Tax Reform Commission to hold public hearing in City Council Chambers

PHILADELPHIA, PA (May 12, 2003)– The Philadelphia Tax Reform Commission (TRC) intends to talk taxes and more taxes on Thursday, May 15, 2003 during a special public hearing to be held in City Council's temporary chambers, Room 696 City Hall. Panel and individual testimony will be heard about how local wage, business and property taxes and City tax policies affect Philadelphians. The Commission will also welcome suggestions for achieving a fairer and more competitive tax system.

"We want to hear any and all fiscally responsible solutions for easing the tax burdens of residents and businesses in Philadelphia," said Ed Schwartz, chairman of the Commission.

"Tax reform is about much more than dollars and cents– it's about creating jobs for our families, opportunities for our children and a healthy environment for our neighborhoods and I would encourage everyone to get involved with this reform process," he added.

The TRC was created as a result of an overwhelmingly affirmative response by the electorate last November to a ballot question which asked voters to support the creation of a special commission to examine local and state taxes and to recommend ways to reduce taxes. The Commission has been working at a rapid-fire pace ever since to explore various tax issues.

Since February, the Commission has held regular meetings to examine business, property and wage taxes. They have heard from a number of experts that include: Pennsylvania Secretary of Budget Michael Masch; Paul R. Levy, Executive Director of the Center City District; David Glancey, Chairman of the Board of Revision of Taxes; and economist Robert Inman, Professor of Finance and Economics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, to name a few.

The time is at hand for the Commission to hear from the public and that's what they will be doing from **1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2003 in Room 696 City Hall** . The hearing will be aired over cable public access channel 64.

###