

**Contact: Patrick Lafferty, CAO**  
**Telephone: 901-379-7355**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**E-mail: [laffertp@assessor.shelby.tn.us](mailto:laffertp@assessor.shelby.tn.us)**

## **Shelby County Assessor Cheyenne Johnson Encourages Property Owners Affected By Floods To File For Tax Relief**

*(Memphis, Tennessee ~ July 26, 2010)* ... Assessor of Property Cheyenne Johnson said a resolution passed today by the Shelby County Commission that will allow her office to reduce the value of real and personal property damaged by the May 1 flood.

“Because the recent floods affected much of Middle and West Tennessee, the General Assembly enacted special legislation to allow local jurisdictions to provide some property tax relief to owners of real and business personal property damaged in the disaster,” Johnson said. “This law, however, is not effective until approved by the governing body of the city or county in which the property is located.”

With today’s Commission action, Shelby County is the second jurisdiction to adopt the special flood relief legislation. Earlier this month, the City of Millington approved the legislation. It is also expected that the issue will be presented to the Memphis City Council in the near future.

In order for real and business personal property damaged by the floods to be eligible for the new proration provisions, the affected property must be destroyed or substantially damaged and unfit for use or occupancy for a period of at least thirty (30) days. Affected real and business property owners must apply to the Assessor for the proration relief by September 1, 2010.

Johnson encourages affected property owners to apply for a flood relief review prior to the September 1 deadline. “The fastest and most convenient way to initiate a flood relief review is by completing the online application form through the Assessor’s Web site at [www.assessor.shelby.tn.us](http://www.assessor.shelby.tn.us). Property owners who complete online forms will receive written confirmation from our office,” said Johnson. “Property owners may also initiate their flood relief application by calling the Assessor’s Answer Center at 901-379-7333 or by visiting our East or Downtown locations.”

Shelby County’s flood damage was largely centered in Millington where an estimated 600 properties will likely qualify for this flood relief. Johnson toured Millington’s flood-damaged properties with Millington Mayor Richard Hodges to witness the affects of the May 1 flood.

“I’m so pleased that this special flood relief legislation can provide some relief for these properties owners who have had their lives disrupted by this natural disaster,” said Johnson. “It was especially gratifying to see the entire Millington community working together so efficiently to help those individuals affected by the flood.”

Other areas of northern Shelby County and North Memphis also experienced some flood damage as a result of the May 1 flood and may be eligible for relief.