

ated his support Tuesday night.

"The President addressed a range of issues, but none is more important than the struggle against Islamist extremism," Lieberman said in a statement. "I understand that the American people are frustrated with the lack of progress in the war, and the many mistakes that have been made. However, there is now a new plan in place with a new commander."

Reval

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pays for every \$1,000 of assessed property value, is expected to fall around 16.

According to Director of Administration Ben Barnes, residents with less than 100 percent increase will see little change or a decrease, and residents with more than 150 percent increase will see the sharpest jump in taxes.

In residential property, 9 percent of single family homes fall into the 150 percent plus category, as do 45 percent of residential condominiums, 73 percent of two-family homes, and 80 percent of three-family homes.

On the commercial side, 26 percent of commercial condominiums, 27 percent of commercial property, and 35 percent of industrial property fall into that bracket.

Condlin likely expected little dispute from commercial owners because the bulk of public discontent over the revaluation has come from residential owners, who have seen more sizable increases.

For those who had questions about the accuracy of their commercial property values, Condlin had on hand Elliott Pollack and Laura Bellotti, property valuation litigators from firm Pullman Comley, LLC.

Pollack and Bellotti guided audience members through the circumstances behind the revaluation and the process of filing an appeal.

Bellotti explained that the revaluation was delayed in 2003, because of soaring residential property value.

"The hope was that commercial rates would eventually catch up with residential rates in the assessment," she said.

Since, commercial values have fallen one-half of a percentage point, defeating the purpose of postponing the revaluation, Bellotti said.

For those who wished to challenge their revaluations, Bellotti and Pollack offered guidance, encouraging those in attendance to file before the March 20 Board of Assessment Appeal deadline.

"Don't sleep on your rights," Pollack urged the crowd. "These deadlines are ironclad, you can't get additional time."

Bellotti briefly referenced the recent board of finance proposal that would lessen the amount of assessed value for residences, and the possibility of a delay or phase-in.

"I really think it's anyone's guess as to what will happen," she told the audience.

She said she thinks a five-year phase-in might be easiest, because it requires no legislative change.

Pollack said he thought such action would be unjust.

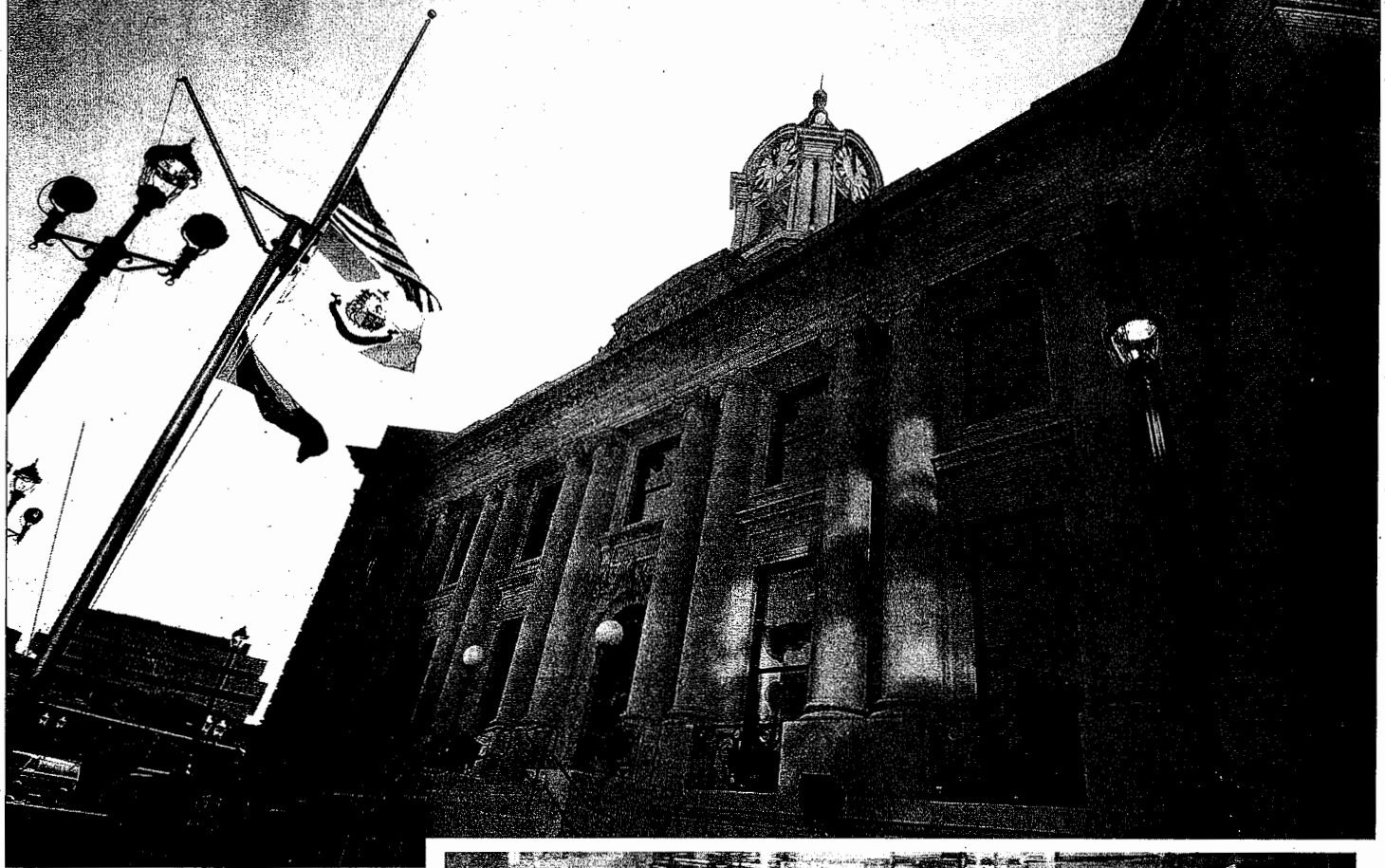
"It's at bottom, a political decision by the city based on how many people are screaming and how badly they want to treat commercial property unfairly," he said.

Some audience members thought commercial property owners were getting a bargain.

Michael Cuddy, whose mother lives in Stamford, said his research shows that commercial properties beat out all other investments, spiking 150 percent nationwide.

He said he attended Tuesday's discussion to see if the experts were confident in the city's significantly lower assessments.

"I wanted to see if they really believe that since 1999 [commercial property] has only gone up 60 percent, if



On display

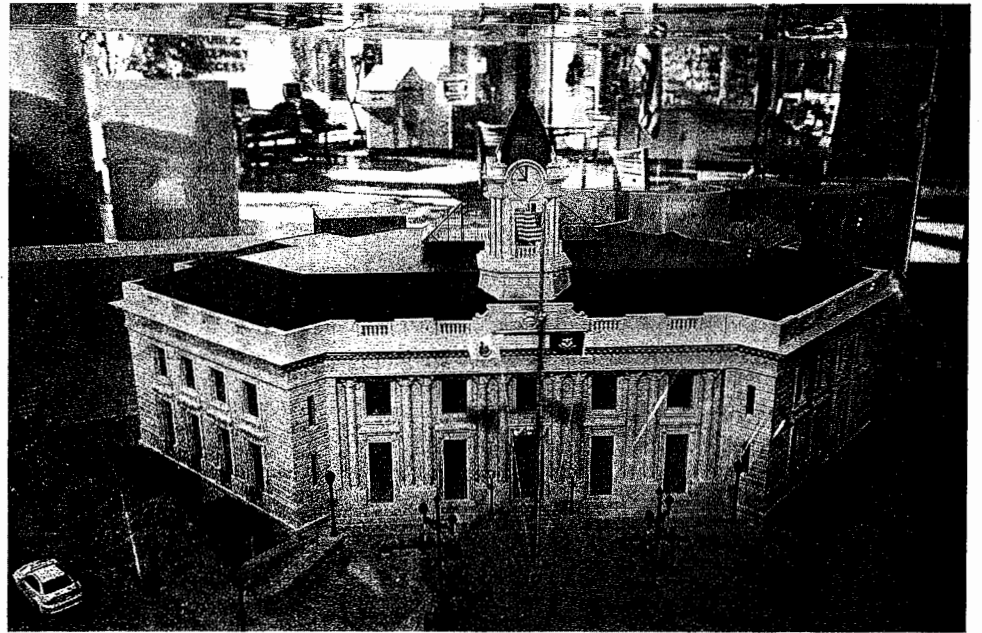
STAMFORD — A model of post-renovation Old Town Hall, and an accompanying video detailing the project, are on display in the Government Center Lobby. The display began on Jan. 22 and will be a.

The showcase was the result of public interest in the model stemming from a public hearing this fall, Mayor Dannel Malloy said in a release.

The renovation, under the supervision of the Old Town Hall Redevelopment Agency, will include a mix of public and private space.

Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Photos by Alex von Kleydorff



Shapiro, Floren join city pols with boosted stature

By AMANDA PINTO
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which may soon emerge from the city. Tim Abbazia, a member of the city's board of finance, recently proposed a change in the amount of residential

Shapiro said.

He will also continue to serve on the education committee, where he will primarily lead Stamford's interest in

policy and strategy, as well as to repeal or mitigate flaws in the estate tax.

Floren also said she hopes to move