



CONSUMER ALERT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASSESSOR PRANG WARNS NEW HOMEOWNERS ON MISLEADING SERVICES OFFERED FOR A FEE

LOS ANGELES, CA – Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan, and Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs Brian J. Stiger are collaborating to remind new homeowners to be wary of solicitations from private companies offering free government services for hefty fees.

Although copies of deeds and applications for property tax exemptions are offered at a minimal cost or free from government offices, new homeowners often receive commercial solicitations to pay for those services. The official-looking mailings frequently include offers to help find property-related information for taxpayers for a fee.

“New property owners might assume that these letters come from a government agency and end up paying for a free service,” said Assessor Jeffrey Prang. “This deceptive practice undermines the services the County already provides for free. Even I have received those solicitations after recently moving into a new home.”

Property assessment services and inquiries are available free of charge or for a minimal cost on the Office of the Assessor’s website at assessor.lacounty.gov. Also, the new “Assessor Portal” provides comprehensive property information and 32 years of assessment history in a modern, intuitive, and searchable website. The Portal may be viewed here: <http://portal.assessor.lacounty.gov/>

“Our department is fully committed to keeping the public informed of this fraudulent activity,” said Dean Logan, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. “We have been working with the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to ensure homeowners take advantage of all of the resources we offer. We encourage homeowners to contact us if they have any property related questions.”

Copies of deeds, records, and other information, can be obtained from the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at www.lavote.net.

"Our department is committed to fighting homeowner fraud in Los Angeles County," said Brian J. Stiger, Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. "We encourage homeowners to contact our department at (800) 593-8222 any time they have any question about home-related documents or mail they receive."

Homeowners should report receipt of solicitations from private companies offering real estate services for a fee to the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at <http://dcba.lacounty.gov/>

About the Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang leads the largest local public property assessment agency in the nation. His staff of nearly 1,400 appraisers and support staff are dedicated to creating an accurate and timely property assessment roll. Last year, the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office established values for 2.6 million properties valued at more than \$1.2 trillion. For more information, please visit us online at <http://assessor.lacounty.gov/>, on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/LACAssessor>, or on Twitter at @LACAssessor.