

NEWS

From the Office of

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sbassessor.org



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San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus Warns Property Owners On Foreclosure Scams **Unscrupulous Businesses Operating In San Bernardino County**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Assessor Bill Postmus today cautioned property owners in the dangers of a growing property foreclosure scam targeting San Bernardino County property owners. Dubious entities are suggesting to area homeowners who are facing foreclosure sales that filing documents will result in avoidance of foreclosure proceedings.

Assessor Bill Postmus is warning local homeowners to prevent being duped by inaccurate and misleading sales pitches aimed at property owners facing a foreclosure sale.

“It is unconscionable that there are unscrupulous business enterprises that would prey on unsuspecting and vulnerable homeowners who are facing the difficult and trying process of foreclosure,” stated Assessor Postmus. “It is beyond the pale that there are those who would attempt to take advantage and swindle homeowners.”

Postmus cautioned local homeowners to be alert for such scams, which first were reported in several Northern California counties.

Owners of properties facing foreclosure sales are encouraged to file deeds with the county recorder’s office conveying a percentage interest to a third party. The deed indicates transfer tax of up to \$1,000 in new money to the transaction.

Homeowners are reportedly being told that they can avoid foreclosure by conveying a partial interest in the property. Owners are required to record the documents and then deposit money into a third party checking account.

Assessor Postmus advises that this process will not halt a foreclosure sale.

“Awareness of scams is key,” concluded Postmus. “Refuse to be a victim. There are documented reports that scams such as those described in this media release are occurring in San Bernardino County. Should you receive such a mailing I encourage you to contact my office at once. My office will deliver all information to the Office of the District Attorney for possible criminal investigation.”

Postmus noted San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos has opened investigations into this and other “foreclosure prevention” scams targeting unsuspecting area property owners.

To see documents of suspected parties engaging in duplicitous business practices, please visit www.sbcounty.gov/assessor/taxpayerscams/.

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