



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
For Agenda Of: June 19, 2007
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: Select_Continued
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Select_Vote

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney Name & Phone: Christie Stanley, x2308
Contact Info: Name & Phone: Dave Saunders, x 2359

**SUBJECT: Request to Set Hearing to Consider establishment of \$2 Recording Fee to Finance
Creation of a Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Unit in the District Attorney's Office**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form:

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Set a hearing on July 10, 2007 to consider adoption of a \$2.00 Recording Fee, as authorized by statute, to finance creation of a Real Estate Fraud Prosecution Unit in the District Attorney's Office.

Summary Text:

The District Attorney requests authorization to implement the provisions of California Government Code section 27388, which establishes a \$2.00 recording fee to fund a program to deter, investigate and prosecute real estate fraud crimes.

Background:

Real estate related fraud schemes have grown to become a nationwide concern. Victims of real estate fraud and predatory lending schemes in Santa Barbara County are most often senior citizens and people with limited English speaking abilities. In some cases, these victims have lost thousands of dollars to unethical and often unlicensed "real estate professionals," "mortgage sales associates," and others. Real estate fraud strikes at the heart of the American dream, where a sophisticated criminal can victimize dozens of people at a time by stealing their life savings and their most valuable asset -- their homes.

Real estate related fraud schemes can only be prevented through community outreach and focused investigative programs designed to reach those most likely to be victimized. At this time, no centralized real estate fraud prevention, investigation and prosecution program exists in Santa Barbara County.

Authorizing the creation of such a program, similar to those in existence in at least eight other California counties, will directly address a growing problem in our non-English speaking and elder communities

Performance Measure:

Reduce the incidence of real estate fraud by implementation of a program focused on prevention, investigation and prosecution in Santa Barbara County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: Fiscal Impacts will be presented when matter is calendared for hearing on July 10, 2007.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Position request will be included at July 10, 2007 hearing.

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

Authored by: Marnie B. Pinsker, District Attorney Administrative Director

cc: