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DON'T GET RIPPED OFF!

I've had a number of clients call me about letters they've received purported to be from the LA County Tax Assessor asking for anywhere from \$150-\$250 to re-evaluate a property so as to reduce property taxes.

- First of all, this is a rip off. Read the article below.
- Secondly, I will perform this service for you for free and have the necessary form for you to send to the County.

Various private companies are sending mailings to property owners offering their services to pursue a reduction in their property taxes. These companies may charge hundreds of dollars to file for a reduction in value on behalf of the property owner. Some companies are even imposing late fees if the application is received after an arbitrary deadline. Be aware that solicitations from private companies offering to pursue a reduction in property taxes must clearly indicate that they are NOT a government agency and that their services are NOT approved or endorsed by any government agency. Failure to provide such notice is a violation of California law. If you or someone you know receives an illegal solicitation, please contact the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs by phone at (800) 973-3370 or visit their website.

Property owners receiving legal solicitations from private companies that properly identify themselves as not being a governmental agency, should be aware that their property may be included in a review the Assessor's Office will be doing in 2009. Over 500,000 single family houses and condos that were purchased between July 2003 and June 2008 will be reviewed. In some areas, earlier purchases will be looked at. There is no reason to pay for a review that will be done for free.

All 500,000 owners whose homes are reviewed will receive a letter by the end of June notifying them of the results. Owners who disagree with the results of the review or were not included in the review, may file an application through December 31. The Decline-In-Value form is simple to complete and readily available online or at one of the Assessor's District Offices. We will review the application and if a reduction is warranted, the taxable value will be reduced. Please note that there is no charge for a review. Owners are urged to wait until July to decide whether to file an application.

Please [click here](#) to see Rick Auerbach's interview with KNBC Channel 4.

Please [click here](#) to see Rick Auerbach's interview with Fox Channel 11.

Please [click here](#) to read Rick Auerbach's Op-Ed article in the Daily News.



"A sale is not something you pursue, rather, it is something that happens to you while you are immersed in serving the best interest of your customer" – Author Unknown