

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FORMER CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER JEFF DAVI ADDRESSES TRI-COUNTY REFAT

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that his office, in partnership with San Benito County District Attorney Candice Hooper and Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeff Rosell, held the second meeting of the Tri-County Real Estate Fraud Advisory Team (REFAT) this morning in Salinas.

The mission of the REFAT is to develop private and public sector relationships that will provide the opportunity to share information that will protect the integrity of real estate transactions in our counties.

Event attendees included Monterey County Assessor/Clerk Recorder Steve Vagnini, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Real Estate, Rick Fong, local law enforcement investigators and officers, forensic auditors, brokers, real estate agents, lenders, and representatives from the Tri-County lending, escrow, title company and realty association communities.

Presentations were made by Jeff Davi, Monterey real estate agent and former California Real Estate Commissioner. Mr. Vagnini urged the attendees to report any suspect activity to his office so that the matter can be investigated. Additionally, Santa Cruz County Assistant District Attorney William Atkinson discussed frauds and scams related to the real estate industry.

Mr. Davi impressed upon the audience the importance of communicating with each other to identify new real estate scams and traced the history of the real estate market crash beginning in approximately 2008. A lively discussion was had by all the attendees. The theme was that the attendees representing the different facets of the real estate industry should have a mechanism to share their common interests of protecting the integrity of their respective professions and detecting, reporting and eliminating fraud in real estate transactions.

The next REFAT meeting will be held in San Benito County Benito at the San Benito County Sheriff's Office at 2301 Technology Parkway, Hollister, CA 95023 on May 12, 2016 and the featured speaker will be Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Real Estate, Rick Fong.

The meeting is open to interested people involved in the real estate and related professions.