

Only in Government accounting could raising a fee from \$2 to \$3 mean increasing the fee over 106% increase, but that is what this agenda item asks for when it states that revenue generated in 07/08 was \$60,128 but under the fee schedule requested here it would have been \$ 124,074.

Maybe that is the new inverse law of income redistribution: a 50% increase in government fees is really a 100+% increase and, conversely, a 100% increase in my income is really only a 50% in realized income thanks to increased government taxes and fees.

Now that seems like a crime that Vern could sink his teeth into, for a fee!

As this agenda item infers, Gov. Code 27388 grants more than the opportunity to charge fees, it requires justification and reporting.

Article 5, Sec. 27388.C.(3): ...funds to a law enforcement agency shall be based on, ...
(A) the number of real estate fraud cases filed in the prior year;
(B) the number of real estate fraud cases investigated in the prior year;
(C) the number of victims involved in the cases filed;
and (D) the total aggregated monetary loss suffered ... as a result of the real estate fraud cases filed...

27388.C. (4) Each law enforcement agency that, pursuant to this section, has been awarded funds in the previous year, upon reapplication for funds to the committee in each successive year, in addition to any information the committee may require in paragraph (3), shall be required to submit a detailed accounting of funds received and expended in the prior year. The accounting shall include
(A) The amount of funds received and expended;
(B) the uses to which those funds were put, including payment of salaries and expenses, purchase of equipment and supplies, and other expenditures by type;
(C) the number of filed complaints, investigations, arrests, and convictions that resulted from the expenditure of the funds;
and (D) other relevant information the committee may reasonably require.

This reporting is required annually, but with a mid-year fee increase that is effectively over 100%, targeted to the Real Estate industry, it is appropriate to require this level of reporting to you thereby enabling you to make an informed decision about a fee increase of over 100%.

Although it may look like just \$1, the reality is that you are being asked the \$64,000 question without the information to formulate the answer.

Are you satisfied that the Real Estate industry in EDC needs to be burdened with an additional \$64,000 in fees at a time when the real estate market is facing total collapse, and time when realtors cannot pay their overhead, let alone any taxes on income to fund the government, a time when the cascading effect of this collapse has devastated the auto

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#8
at Board Hearing of 1/27/09

market, the furniture market, restaurants, I could go on and on, but you know well the hardships faced in our community by the collapse of the real estate market.

Just how much additional pressure do you want to put on this critical market without demonstrable, and legally required, justification?

If you were to ask realtors and contractors to testify as to the market conditions and the effects of additional fees and regulations will have on delaying the recovery, you would have to move this meeting to the Forni building.

I urge you to continue this item until such time as a report consistent with government code section 27388, subsections C.3 & C.4 are tendered along with this request, and that that report be publicly available on the county website at least 5 business days prior to it being heard by the board of supervisor.

This so that both the public, and every Supervisor, is convinced that there is a real need justifying this additional burden of \$64,000 to an industry that is on the very precipice of total ruin.